

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1299

Introduced by

Representative Kretschmar

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 4-02-27.2, 4-02-31, 11-09.1-06, 11-10.2-02,
2 11-10.3-01, 15-27.3-19, 15-27.3-21, subsection 2 of section 15-27.6-10, subsection 2 of section
3 15-28-01, section 15-48-05, subsection 3 of section 21-03-38.1, sections 23-14-01, 23-14-13,
4 23-14-13.1, 23-29-07, 27-19-02, 38-02-02, 40-02-10, 40-02-11, 40-04-04, 40-04-11,
5 40-05.1-07, 40-10-02, 40-10-08, 40-33-12, 40-38-01, 40-49-07.2, 40-49.1-02, 40-53.1-04,
6 40-53.2-03, 54-40.4-01, subsection 1 of section 54-40.4-05, sections 54-40.4-06, 57-15-08,
7 57-15-12, 57-15-12.1, 57-15-12.3, 57-15-14.5, 57-15-44, 57-15-50, 57-15-51, 57-15-55,
8 57-15-55.1, subsection 3 of section 57-15-56, subsection 3 of section 57-15-60, sections
9 61-04.1-29, 61-04.1-30, and 61-04.1-31 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the
10 required vote for approval of ballot issues by the qualified electors of political subdivisions.

11 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

12 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 4-02-27.2 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
13 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **4-02-27.2. Additional levy in certain counties.** The board of county commissioners
15 of any county, when petitioned by at least five percent of the qualified electors of the county,
16 including qualified electors residing in at least one-half of the voting precincts of the county as
17 determined by the number of votes cast in the county for the office of governor at the preceding
18 general election, shall submit to the qualified electors of the county at any general election or
19 special election called for such purpose, the proposition of authorizing the board of county
20 commissioners to purchase or lease in the name of the county not to exceed two hundred forty
21 acres [97.12 hectares] of real estate and to construct thereon such buildings and other
22 improvements as may be deemed desirable for the conduct of a county fair and authorizing the
23 board of county commissioners, if the county general fund is deemed insufficient to provide
24 funds therefor, to levy a tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection 2 of section 57-15-06.7.

1 If a majority of the votes cast by qualified electors on the question at the election are in favor of
2 the proposition, including the proposed levy, the tax must be levied and collected as are other
3 property taxes, with the proceeds to be placed into a fund to be known as the "county fair fund".
4 The tax is in addition to any mill levy limitations provided by law, including the levies authorized
5 by sections 4-02-27 and 4-02-27.1.

6 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 4-02-31 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **4-02-31. Purchase or lease of land - Election required.** The board of county
9 commissioners in any county in the state may submit, or when petitioned by at least five
10 percent of the qualified electors of the county in at least one-half of the voting precincts, based
11 upon the votes cast in the county for secretary of state at the last general election, shall submit,
12 to the qualified electors of the county at any general election the proposition of purchasing or
13 leasing not more than eighty acres [32.37 hectares] of land in the name of the county to be
14 used for county fair purposes. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question at
15 the election vote in favor of purchasing or leasing land for such purposes, the board of county
16 commissioners shall purchase or lease, in conformity with this chapter, a tract of land not to
17 exceed eighty acres [32.37 hectares], in the name of the county. The board of county
18 commissioners shall construct such buildings and improvements on the land as it shall deem
19 necessary for the operation and management of the fair. The election on the purchase or lease
20 of land must be conducted and the votes counted as at other elections.

21 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-09.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **11-09.1-06. Amendment or repeal.** The home rule charter adopted by any county
24 may be amended or repealed by a proposal by the governing body of the county or by petition
25 of the number of electors provided in section 11-09.1-01, submitted to and ratified by the
26 qualified electors of the county. A petition to amend or repeal a home rule charter must be
27 submitted to the governing body of the county. Within thirty days of receipt of a valid petition or
28 approval of a proposal to amend or repeal a home rule charter, the governing body of the
29 county shall publish any proposed amendment or repeal of a home rule charter once in the
30 official newspaper of the county. At least sixty days after publication, the proposed amendment
31 or repeal must be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the county at the next primary

1 or general election. The electors may accept or reject any amendment or a repeal by a
2 majority vote of qualified electors voting on the question at the election.

3 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-10.2-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **11-10.2-02. Methods of accomplishing office combination, separation, or**
6 **redesignation of elective or appointive status.** The combination or separation of elective
7 county offices, or redesignation of a county office as elective or appointive, may be
8 accomplished:

- 9 1. By resolution of the board of county commissioners, subject to the right of
10 referendum in the county electors. The board of county commissioners may by a
11 majority vote adopt a preliminary resolution incorporating a proposed plan for
12 combining or separating county offices, or redesignating a county office as elective
13 or appointive. The board shall cause the complete text of the proposed plan to be
14 published in the official newspaper of the county, at least once during two different
15 weeks within the thirty-day period immediately following the adoption of the
16 preliminary resolution. The board of county commissioners shall hold public
17 hearings and community forums or use other suitable means to disseminate
18 information, receive suggestions and comments, and encourage public discussion
19 of the purpose, conclusions, and recommendations of the plan. Within two years
20 after the adoption of the preliminary resolution, the board of county commissioners
21 may by final resolution approve the plan or amend the plan and approve it for
22 implementation according to its terms. The final resolution may be referred to the
23 qualified electors of the county by a petition protesting the plan. The petition must
24 be signed by ten percent or more of the total number of qualified electors of the
25 county voting for governor at the most recent gubernatorial election, and filed with
26 the county auditor, or functional equivalent of that office, before four p.m. on the
27 thirtieth day after the final resolution is adopted. Within ten days after the filing of
28 the petition, the county auditor shall examine the petition and ascertain from the
29 voter list whether the petition contains the signatures of a sufficient number of
30 qualified electors. Any insufficiencies may be cured by the filing of an amended
31 petition within ten days after the county auditor declares the insufficiency. The

1 final resolution is suspended upon a determination by the county auditor that the
2 petition was timely filed and contains the signatures of a sufficient number of
3 qualified electors. The board of county commissioners shall reconsider the
4 referred resolution, and if it does not repeal the resolution in its entirety, shall
5 submit the resolution to a vote of the qualified electors of the county at the next
6 regular election. The county auditor shall cause the complete text of the resolution
7 to be published in the official newspaper of the county, not less than two weeks nor
8 more than thirty days, before the date of the election. If a majority of the qualified
9 electors voting on the question approves the resolution, the plan incorporated in
10 the resolution is effective and becomes operative according to its terms as if it had
11 not been suspended.

- 12 2. By initiative of county electors. A petition signed by ten percent or more of the total
13 number of qualified electors of the county voting for governor at the most recent
14 gubernatorial election may be submitted to the board of county commissioners,
15 calling upon the board to submit to the electors the question of adopting a plan
16 described in, or annexed to, the petition. The county auditor, or the functional
17 equivalent of that officer, shall examine the petition and ascertain from the voter list
18 whether or not the petition contains the signatures of a sufficient number of
19 qualified electors. Any insufficiencies may be cured by the filing of an amended
20 petition within thirty days after the county auditor declares the insufficiency. When
21 a plan for the combination or separation of county offices or redesignation of
22 county offices as elective or appointive is proposed pursuant to this subsection, the
23 board of county commissioners shall submit the proposed plan to a vote of the
24 qualified electors of the county at a primary or general election not less than sixty
25 days nor more than two years, as specified in the petition, after determining that
26 the petition is sufficient. The question on the ballot at the election must be framed
27 in a manner that fairly and accurately describes the substance of the proposed
28 plan. The board shall cause the complete text of the proposed plan to be
29 published in the official newspaper of the county, at least once during two different
30 weeks within the thirty-day period immediately preceding the date of the election.
31 The board of county commissioners may, prior to the election, hold public hearings

and community forums and use other suitable means to disseminate information, receive suggestions and comments, and encourage public discussion of the purpose, conclusions, and recommendations of the plan. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the ~~proposed plan approves the~~ question approves of its adoption, the plan is effective according to its terms.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 11-10.3-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11-10.3-01. Multicounty combination of elective officers.

1. A county may combine any county elective office with one or more elective offices of one or more other counties for the purpose of sharing that combined office for the performance of functions and the provision of services among those counties. The procedures set forth in this chapter apply to the combination, unless a specific procedure for combining particular elective county offices is otherwise provided by law.
2. A proposal for combining county elective offices may be accomplished:
 - a. By the boards of county commissioners of each affected county by entering into a joint powers agreement incorporating a plan for the office combination, subject to the right of referendum in the electors of each of the counties; or
 - b. By initiative of the electors of each affected county. A petition signed by ten percent or more of the total number of qualified electors of each county voting for governor at the most recent gubernatorial election may be submitted to the boards of county commissioners of each county, calling upon the boards to submit to the electors the question of adopting a plan described in, or annexed to, the petition.
3. A joint powers agreement entered into between counties for combining the functions of any county elective office pursuant to subdivision a of subsection 2 may be referred to the qualified electors of an affected county by a petition protesting the agreement. The petition must be signed by ten percent or more of the total number of qualified electors of the county voting for governor at the most recent gubernatorial election, and filed with the county auditor, or functional equivalent of that office, before four p.m. on the thirtieth day after the agreement is

1 adopted. Within ten days after the filing of the petition, the county auditor shall
2 examine the petition and ascertain from the voter list whether the petition contains
3 the signatures of a sufficient number of qualified electors. Any insufficiencies may
4 be cured by the filing of an amended petition within ten days after the county
5 auditor declares the insufficiency. The implementation of the terms of the joint
6 powers agreement is suspended upon a determination by the county auditor that
7 the petition was timely filed and contains the signatures of a sufficient number of
8 qualified electors. The board of county commissioners shall reconsider the
9 referred agreement and, if the board does not terminate the agreement in its
10 entirety, shall submit the question to a vote of the qualified electors of the county at
11 the next regular election. The county auditor shall cause the complete text of the
12 agreement to be published in the official newspaper of the county, not less than
13 two weeks nor more than thirty days, before the date of the election. The boards
14 of county commissioners may, prior to the election, hold public hearings and
15 community forums and use other suitable means to disseminate information,
16 receive suggestions and comments, and encourage public discussion of the
17 purpose and provisions of the plan. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on
18 the question in the county approve the question, the plan incorporated in the
19 agreement is effective and becomes operative according to the terms of the
20 agreement as if the agreement had not been suspended. If the electors of either
21 county ~~disapprove~~ do not approve the question, the plan does not become
22 effective.

- 23 4. The question of combination of the functions of elective county offices brought by
24 petition pursuant to subdivision b of subsection 2 must be submitted by the boards
25 of county commissioners to the electors in each of the affected counties at a
26 primary or general election not less than sixty days nor more than two years, as
27 specified in the petition, after the petition is determined sufficient by each board.
28 The question on the ballot at the election must be framed in a manner that fairly
29 and accurately describes the substance of the proposed office-sharing
30 arrangement. The board of county commissioners in each affected county shall
31 cause the complete text of the proposed plan for combining offices to be published

1 in the official newspaper of the county, at least once during two different weeks
2 within the thirty-day period immediately preceding the date of the election. The
3 boards of county commissioners may, prior to the election, hold public hearings
4 and community forums and use other suitable means to disseminate information,
5 receive suggestions and comments, and encourage public discussion of the
6 purpose and provisions of the plan. If a majority of the qualified electors of each
7 county voting on the ~~proposed plan approves the question~~ approves of its
8 adoption, the plan is effective according to its terms.

9 5. One copy of the plan as approved must be filed with the district court for each
10 county and one with each county auditor or functional equivalent to remain as a
11 part of each county's permanent records. The boards of county commissioners
12 may take any action necessary to bring about an orderly transition in
13 implementation of the plan.

14 6. A plan, or part of a plan, adopted pursuant to this chapter may be revised or
15 terminated through another joint powers agreement or petition submitted pursuant
16 to the procedure set forth in this chapter for adopting a plan, or pursuant to
17 provisions for termination or revision provided in the original joint powers
18 agreement.

19 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-27.3-19 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
20 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **15-27.3-19. Changes in reorganization proposal.** At any time after the
22 reorganization proposal has become effective, any provision of the reorganization proposal,
23 including provisions affecting the adjustment of assets and liabilities but excepting provisions
24 defining the boundaries of the district, may be changed by a majority vote of the qualified
25 electors voting on the question without approval of the state board or the county committee.
26 The school board in the reorganized district may, upon its own motion, or shall, upon the filing
27 with it of a petition signed by qualified electors equal in number to twenty percent or more of the
28 persons enumerated in the most recent school district census, unless the census is greater
29 than four thousand, in which case only fifteen percent or more of the number of persons
30 enumerated in the school census is required, submit the question of authorizing a change in the
31 school district's adopted reorganization proposal at the next regular or special election.

1 However, not fewer than twenty-five signatures of qualified electors is required unless the
2 district has fewer than twenty-five qualified electors, in which case the petition must be signed
3 by not less than twenty-five percent of the qualified electors of the district. In districts with
4 fewer than twenty-five qualified electors, the county superintendent for the county in which the
5 school is located shall determine the number of qualified electors in the district. If a majority of
6 all votes cast on the question by the electors residing in the district is in favor of the proposed
7 change, then the proposed change is effected. If a reorganization plan has been in effect for at
8 least ten years, any proposed change to geographic voting areas is effective upon a majority
9 vote in an election at large by the qualified electors of the district voting on the question. A
10 school board in a reorganized school district may change, by resolution, to at large voting for
11 school board candidates if there is a variance of more than ten percent in the population
12 between any of the district's established geographic areas with resident candidates.

13 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-27.3-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **15-27.3-21. Proportionate tax rate on agricultural property.** Any school district
16 which imposed a proportionate tax rate for school purposes levied on agricultural property
17 different from the school district levy on other taxable property as permitted by sections
18 15-53.1-37 and 15-53.1-38, as they existed on December 31, 1984, must continue to levy that
19 proportionate tax rate unless it is discontinued by the school board upon a majority of the ~~voters~~
20 qualified electors of the school district voting on the question. No other school district may
21 impose such a proportionate tax rate for different classes of property within the school district.

22 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 15-27.6-10 of the North Dakota
23 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 24 2. If a majority of qualified electors residing within each school district and voting on
25 the question vote in favor of the formation of the new district, the county
26 superintendent shall make the proper adjustments and perform all necessary
27 duties as provided in subsection 5 of section 15-27.3-08.

28 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 15-28-01 of the 1995
29 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 30 2. The number of school board members in any public school district may be
31 increased to either five, seven, or nine or decreased to seven or five if a petition

signed by at least one-third of the qualified electors of the school district as determined by the number of persons voting at the most recent annual school district election is filed with the school board asking for such change, and the change is approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the district voting on the question at a special election called for that purpose. If approved, the additional members must be elected to the board at the next annual school district election in the same manner as other school board members. If the total number of board members after the increase is approved is five, two shall serve until the first annual election, two until the second annual election, and one until the third annual election thereafter. If the total number of board members after the increase is approved is seven, three shall serve until the first annual election, two until the second annual election, and two until the third annual election thereafter. If the total number of board members after the increase is approved is nine, three shall serve until the first annual election, three until the second annual election, and three until the third annual election thereafter. All such members shall serve for the terms prescribed ~~above~~ in this section and until their successors are elected and qualified, and the length of the respective terms of those members elected as a result of the increase in membership of the board shall be determined by lot. The length of any term which existed prior to the increase in membership and which is held by a member who has duly qualified, may not be modified by such determination. Terms subsequent to the first must be for the normal term of three years, and until a successor is elected and qualified. School board members must be elected at large, except that if the district in which they are elected has been reorganized, such members may be elected either at large or by geographical area. In reorganized districts, in which an increase in the membership of the board is proposed, the election on the reorganization proposal takes the place of the petition and election requirements of this subsection, and approval of the reorganization proposal has the same effect as if the approval were by the election provided for in this subsection. Should a decrease to not fewer than five members be approved by the qualified electors voting on the question, the excess number of

members will serve out existing terms until the number approved by the qualified electors has been reached.

SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Section 15-48-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-48-05. Record of proceedings - Certificate filed with county auditor. A record of the proceedings connected with the submission of the question of increasing the debt limit, the result of the election, and the number of votes cast for and against the proposition, respectively, must be made and preserved in the records of the school district. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of increasing the debt limit, a certificate, signed by the president of the school board and attested by the business manager of the school district, reciting the result of the election and the fact that the limit of indebtedness of said school district has been increased to ten percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property of said district, and stating the number of votes cast for and against such increase, respectively, must be filed with the county auditor of the county in which said school district is situated, where the said certificates must be preserved and kept on file.

SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 21-03-38.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. The governing body, upon approval by a majority vote of the qualified electors, voting on the question at an election called therefor, may use the funds for some other purpose authorized by law.

SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 23-14-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23-14-01. Formation of health districts. When in the opinion of the state health officer, on information obtained in cooperation with local health officers and local boards of health, the health needs of any given area may be better served by the formation of a health district, as hereinafter provided, the state health officer shall so notify the county auditor of each county involved and the city auditor of each city having a population in excess of fifteen thousand persons. Each county auditor and city auditor shall place the matter before the governing board of the county or city at its next regular meeting, and the governing board by resolution either shall adopt or reject the plan at the same or the first subsequent meeting. If resolutions are adopted by the governing boards of the cities and counties as hereinbefore

provided, adopting the health district plan, all laws and parts of laws in conflict therewith automatically become inoperative throughout the territory embraced within the district, and particularly the laws relative to city, township, and county boards of health. If the board of county commissioners of any county or the city council or city commission of any city, rejects the plan, it may submit the question of adoption of the provisions of this chapter to the qualified electors of the county or city at the next ensuing general or special election to be held in said county or city. In all elections held under this chapter, the votes cast in the cities having a population in excess of fifteen thousand inhabitants must be considered separate and apart from the votes cast elsewhere in the county, and the participation in the health district by any city must be governed by the votes cast in the city as distinguished from the vote cast elsewhere in the county. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question vote in favor of the adoption of the provisions of this chapter, the board of county commissioners, within ten days after the canvass of said election, shall adopt such resolution, and, upon the adoption of such resolution such county or counties, together with the cities voting in favor of the plan, must be considered a district health unit or health district. On a petition filed with the county auditor containing names of qualified electors of the county equal to ten percent or more of the votes cast for the office of governor at the last general election, an election on the question of forming a health district must be held as heretofore provided. The health districts must follow county lines, and in case the district as outlined by the state health officer includes more than one county, and the plan is adopted in any of said counties or cities, and rejected in any one or more of the other counties or cities, it becomes effective in the county or counties and city or cities adopting the plan, if ~~in the exercise of his discretion~~ the state health officer deems the same operative.

SECTION 13. AMENDMENT. Section 23-14-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23-14-13. Dissolution. After a district health unit organized as provided in this chapter has been in operation for two years, the same may be dissolved in the following manner: On a petition filed with the county auditor of each county of a health district containing names of qualified electors of the county equal to ten percent or more of the votes cast for governor at the last general election in each county, an election on the question of dissolution must be presented to the qualified electors in each county in the district at the next general or special

election held in each county in the district. If a majority of the votes cast on the question in a majority of the counties favor dissolution, the health unit must be dissolved on January first following the election. If a majority of the votes cast on the question in a majority of the counties are against dissolution, no other election may be held until a period of two years has again expired.

SECTION 14. AMENDMENT. Section 23-14-13.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23-14-13.1. Withdrawal. After a district health unit organized as provided in this chapter has been in operation for two years, any county may withdraw from the district in the following manner: On a petition filed with the county auditor containing names of qualified electors of the county equal to ten percent or more of the votes cast for governor at the last general election in that county, an election on the question of withdrawal must be presented to the qualified electors in the county at the next general or special election held in the county. If a majority of the votes cast on the question favor withdrawing from the district, the county will be considered withdrawn from the unit on January first following the election. If a majority of the votes cast on the question are against withdrawal, no other election may be held until a period of two years has again expired.

SECTION 15. AMENDMENT. Section 23-29-07 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23-29-07. Permits.

1. The department may issue permits for solid waste management facilities and solid waste transporters. It is unlawful for any person to own, operate, or use a facility for solid waste disposal or transport solid wastes without a valid permit. Upon receipt of a permit application, the department shall give public notice, in the official newspaper of the county in which the facility is to be located, that the department is considering an application for a solid waste management facility. The notice must state the name of the applicant, the location of the facility, and a description of the facility. The department shall require as a condition of a permit for a solid waste management facility, not owned or operated by the state or a political subdivision, that any entity that controls the permitholder agrees to accept responsibility for any remedial measures, closure and postclosure care, or

penalties incurred by the permitholder. For purposes of this section, "control" means ownership or control, directly, indirectly, or through the actions of one or more persons of the power to vote twenty-five percent or more of any class of voting shares of a permitholder, or the direct or indirect power to control in any manner the election of a majority of the directors of a permitholder, or to direct the management or policies of a permitholder, whether by individuals, corporations, partnerships, trusts, or other entities or organizations of any type. All permits are nontransferable, are for a term of not more than ten years from the date of issuance, and are conditioned upon the observance of the laws of the state and the rules adopted under this chapter.

2. For any permit application completed after July 1, 1994, the department shall notify the board of county commissioners of a county in which a new solid waste management facility will be located of the department's intention to issue a permit for the facility. The board of county commissioners may call a special election to be held within sixty days after receiving notice from the department to allow the qualified electors of the county to vote to approve or disapprove of the facility based on public interest and impact on the environment. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question in the election vote to disapprove of the facility, the department may not issue the permit and the facility may not be located in that county.

3. Notwithstanding subsection 2, if the new solid waste management facility for which the permit application was completed after July 1, 1994, will be owned or operated by a solid waste management authority, a special election to approve or disapprove of a facility may be called only if the boards of county commissioners from a majority of the counties in the solid waste management district call for a special election. However, a special election must be conducted in each county within the authority. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question in the election vote to disapprove of the facility, the department may not issue the permit.

4. Subsections 2 and 3 do not apply to a solid waste management facility operated as part of an energy conversion facility or part of a surface coal mining and

reclamation operation, if the solid waste management facility disposes of only waste generated by the energy conversion facility or surface coal mining and reclamation operation.

SECTION 16. AMENDMENT. Section 27-19-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

27-19-02. Method of acceptance. Acceptance of jurisdiction may be by either of the following methods:

1. Upon petition of a majority of the enrolled residents of a reservation who are eighteen years of age or older; or
2. The affirmative vote of the majority of the enrolled residents voting on the question who are eighteen years of age or older, at an election called and supervised by the North Dakota Indian affairs commission upon petition of fifteen percent or more of those eligible to vote at such an election.

SECTION 17. AMENDMENT. Section 38-02-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

38-02-02. Width of lode claims - Extension - Reduction. The width of lode claims is one hundred fifty feet [45.72 meters] on each side of the center of the vein or crevice, except that any county, at any general election by a majority of the votes cast on the question at such election, may determine upon a greater width not exceeding three hundred feet [91.44 meters] on each side of the center of the vein or lode. By a like vote, any county may determine upon a width less than that specified in this section, except that a width of less than twenty-five feet [7.62 meters] on each side of the vein or lode is prohibited.

SECTION 18. AMENDMENT. Section 40-02-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-02-10. Election returns - To whom made - Duty of board of county commissioners. The election officials acting in each place in which votes are cast in an election held under this chapter shall return to the board of county commissioners which ordered the election a verified statement of the results of the election showing the number of votes cast for and against incorporation at their voting place. The returns shall be verified by the affidavit of the election officials. The returns shall be canvassed by the board of county commissioners, and the results of the canvass and of the election shall be entered upon the

minutes of the proceedings of such board. If a majority of the votes cast on the question at the election favored incorporation, the board shall make an order declaring that the territory described in the petition has been incorporated as a city under the council form of government or as a city under the commission system of government, as the case may be, by the name described in the petition, stating that name, and shall cause the order to be entered in the minutes of its proceedings. If the territory is located in more than one county, a certified copy of such order shall be submitted immediately to each of the other counties within which a portion of the territory described in the order is situated. The auditor of each county to which a certified copy of the order is submitted shall make a record thereof in the minutes of the board of county commissioners of such county.

SECTION 19. AMENDMENT. Section 40-02-11 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-02-11. Division into wards. If a majority of the votes cast on the question at the election provided for in this chapter favored incorporation as a city, the board of county commissioners that ordered the election shall, if the territory has been incorporated as a city under the council form of government, divide the city into wards. The city may not be divided into wards unless it has more than six hundred inhabitants. If the city has more than six hundred inhabitants, one ward must be formed for each two council members to which the city is entitled. In cities of more than fifteen thousand inhabitants, however, the number of wards is limited to seven originally, and that number may be increased thereafter as provided in this title. Each ward must be formed from contiguous territory, and all wards must be numbered consecutively and must have, as nearly as practicable, the same number of inhabitants. After the election of council members, the governing body of the city shall form or establish wards pursuant to law.

SECTION 20. AMENDMENT. Section 40-04-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-04-04. Returns and canvass of election - Certificate to secretary of state - Officers to continue until election. The officials of an election held under the provisions of this chapter shall make a return of such election to the governing body of the city and such governing body shall canvass such returns and cause the result of the canvass to be entered upon the records of the city. If a majority of the votes cast on the question at such election

shall be for city organization under the commission system, the auditor shall certify the adoption of such form of government and a copy of the proceedings concerning the same to the secretary of state together with the result of any special census taken in such city. The city officers then in office shall exercise the powers conferred upon like officers of a city operating under the commission system of government until their successors are elected and qualified.

SECTION 21. AMENDMENT. Section 40-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-04-11. Procedure when election favors changing from commission system of government. If a majority of the votes cast on the question at the election provided for in section 40-04-10 favor the proposition submitted at such election, the officers elected at the next biennial election shall be those prescribed by the provisions of this title relating to cities organized under the city council form of government. Upon the qualification of such officers, the city shall become a city under the council form of government.

SECTION 22. AMENDMENT. Section 40-05.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-05.1-07. Amendment or repeal. The home rule charter adopted by any city may be amended or repealed by proposals submitted to and ratified by the qualified electors of the city in the same general manner provided in section 40-05.1-02 and section 40-05.1-04 for the adoption of such charter. Amendments may be proposed by the governing body of the city or by petition of the number of electors provided in section 40-05.1-02 and submitted to the voters at the same election. The voters may at their option accept or reject any or all of such amendments by a majority vote of qualified electors voting on the question at the election. A proposal to repeal a home rule charter that has been adopted shall likewise be submitted to the electors of the city as set forth in this section.

SECTION 23. AMENDMENT. Section 40-10-02 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-10-02. Vote required to adopt plan - Effective date. If a majority of the votes cast on the question at the election favors the adoption of the city manager plan, the governing body shall declare the plan adopted, and shall fix the date when the plan becomes effective. The date must be after the first regular meeting of the governing body in the month of July following the election.

1 **SECTION 24. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-10-08 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
2 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **40-10-08. Election to determine question of retention of city manager plan -**

4 **Procedure thereafter.** At any time after the city manager plan has been in force in any city for
5 a period of five years or more, the governing body of the city may submit at any regular election
6 the question of whether or not such plan shall be retained. If a petition signed by forty percent
7 or more of the qualified electors of the city as shown by the votes cast for the executive officer
8 at the preceding city election, requesting the submission of such question is filed with the city
9 auditor, the governing body shall submit such proposal to the qualified electors of the city at an
10 election to be held within ninety days after the filing of such petition. The signatures to such
11 petition need not be appended to a single paper, but each single paper so used shall clearly
12 state the purpose of the petition at the top of the paper, and each signature shall have been
13 placed thereon not more than ninety days prior to the date on which the petition is filed in the
14 office of the city auditor. Upon each paper one of the qualified electors signing such petition
15 shall, under oath before an officer competent to administer oaths, swear that ~~he~~ that person
16 witnessed the signing of each signature appearing on such paper and that each signature
17 appearing upon such paper is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to
18 be. Each petition, in addition to the names of the signers, shall contain the name of the street
19 and the number of the house in which each petitioner resides, the length of ~~his~~ the petitioner's
20 residence in the state of North Dakota, ~~the length of his residence~~ and in the city, and the date
21 on which the petitioner signed the petition. Any petitioner shall be permitted to withdraw ~~his~~ the
22 petitioner's name from a petition at any time prior to action by the governing body calling the
23 election as provided herein. Such question shall not be submitted more than once in every five
24 years. If a majority of the votes cast on the question at the election shall be against retaining
25 the city manager plan, the city shall revert to the plan in force previous to the adoption of the
26 city manager plan, and the provisions of this chapter shall not be applicable to such city except
27 after another compliance with its terms. The governing body shall fix the date, not less than
28 three months nor more than six months after an election at which the majority vote on the
29 question is against the retention of the city manager plan, when such plan shall cease to be
30 operative in the municipality.

1 **SECTION 25. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-33-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **40-33-12. Surplus in municipal utilities fund - How expended.** When the governing
4 body of the municipality ~~shall determine~~ determines that there is a cash surplus in the municipal
5 utilities fund over and above any amount necessary to provide adequately for the operation,
6 maintenance, repair, enlargement, alteration, improvement, and extension of the plant or
7 plants, it, ~~in its discretion,~~ may invest the surplus or transfer it or a portion thereof as follows:

- 8 1. All or any part of the surplus may be invested by the governing body in
9 interest-bearing bonds of the United States government, the state of North Dakota,
10 or any bonds or special improvement district warrants of the municipality in which
11 the municipal plant is located, and all the principal and interest on the warrants and
12 bonds, when repaid, shall be placed back in the municipal utilities fund; or
- 13 2. The governing body may transfer from the surplus in the fund to the general fund
14 of the municipality or to any other fund of the municipality a total sum of not more
15 than twenty percent of the gross receipts of the municipal utilities for the fiscal year
16 of the municipality during which the transfer or transfers are made. In addition the
17 governing body, upon adoption of a resolution declaring it necessary and upon
18 approval of a majority of the votes cast on the question at a regular city election,
19 may transfer to the general fund of the municipality or to any other fund of the
20 municipality from the surplus in the municipal utilities fund at the end of any fiscal
21 year. The resolution and ballot shall state the specific amount or percentage to be
22 transferred as hereinbefore provided.

23 **SECTION 26. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-38-01 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
24 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **40-38-01. Public library and reading room - Establishment - Election.** The
26 governing body of any city or county upon petition of not less than fifty-one percent of the
27 qualified electors of the city or county as determined by the total number of votes cast at the
28 last general election or upon a majority vote of the qualified electors thereof voting on the
29 question shall establish and maintain public library service within its geographic limits by means
30 of a public library and reading room or other public library service, either singly or in
31 cooperation with the state library, or with one or more cities or counties, or by participation in an

1 approved state plan for rendering public library service under the Library Services and
2 Construction Act [20 U.S.C. 351-358], and acts amendatory thereof. Such question shall be
3 submitted to the qualified electors upon resolution of the governing body or upon the petition of
4 not less than twenty-five percent of that number of qualified electors of the city or county that
5 voted at the last general election, filed with the governing body not less than sixty days before
6 the next regular election. Library service may be discontinued within any city or county by any
7 of the methods by which library services may be established, except that once established,
8 such service shall not be discontinued until after it has been in operation for at least five years
9 from the date of establishment.

10 **SECTION 27. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-49-07.2 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
11 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **40-49-07.2. Dissolution of city park district - Election.**

- 13 1. A city park district may be dissolved pursuant to a plan adopted pursuant to this
14 section. A proposal for dissolving a city park district may be initiated:
- 15 a. By resolution incorporating a dissolution plan, approved by a majority vote of
16 the board of park commissioners and submitted to the governing body of the
17 city; or
- 18 b. By a petition incorporating a dissolution plan, signed by twenty-five percent or
19 more of the total number of qualified electors of the city park district voting at
20 the last regular city election and submitted to the governing body of the city.
- 21 2. The governing body of the city shall submit the question of dissolution to the
22 electors of the park district at any regular city election or primary or general
23 election as specified in the resolution or petition submitted pursuant to
24 subsection 1. The plan incorporated in the resolution or petition is effective and
25 becomes operative according to its terms if a majority of the qualified electors
26 voting on the question approves the plan.
- 27 3. A plan for dissolving a city park district may specify:
- 28 a. The disposition and maintenance of land and other property acquired by the
29 board of park commissioners of the dissolved park district;

- b. The manner for payment of any current indebtedness, evidences of indebtedness in anticipation of user fee revenues, bonded indebtedness, and other obligations of the dissolved park district;
- c. The disposition of any outstanding special assessments or other anticipated revenues;
- d. The transition in implementing the plan, including elements that consider the reasonable expectations of current officeholders and personnel such as delayed effective dates for implementation; and
- e. Other considerations and provisions that are consistent with state law.

- 4. The governing body of the city shall cause the complete text, or a fair and accurate summary, of the plan to be published in the official newspaper of the city, not less than two weeks nor more than thirty days, before the date of the election. The governing body may, prior to the election, hold public hearings and community forums and use other suitable means to disseminate information, receive suggestions and comments, and encourage public discussion of the purpose and provisions of the plan.

SECTION 28. AMENDMENT. Section 40-49.1-02 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-49.1-02. Election on combination plan. If a plan for combining boards of park commissioners is proposed by agreement or petition, the participating or affected boards shall immediately submit the proposed plan to the governing bodies of the affected cities and, if applicable, to the board of county commissioners of any affected county. Those boards shall jointly submit the question of combination to the qualified electors of the affected cities and counties at a primary or general election as specified in the agreement or petition within two years of the initial submission of the agreement or petition, and shall cause the complete text, or a fair and accurate summary, of the plan to be published in the official newspapers of the affected cities and counties, not less than two weeks nor more than thirty days, before the date of the election. The boards of park commissioners may, prior to the election, hold public hearings and community forums and use other suitable means to disseminate information, receive suggestions and comments, and encourage public discussion of the purpose and provisions of the plan. The plan incorporated in the agreement or petition is effective and

becomes operative according to its terms if a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question in each affected city or county approves the plan.

SECTION 29. AMENDMENT. Section 40-53.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-53.1-04. Dissolution - Vote required - Effect on debts and contracts. If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of dissolution the county commissioners shall, by motion and proclamation, set a date upon which dissolution will become effective and the city shall be dissolved, provided provision has been made for payment of its current indebtedness, contracts, and obligations, and for levying the requisite tax to do so. The current indebtedness, contracts, and obligations do not include funded or bonded indebtedness nor any contract whose termination date is more than one year beyond the date the election was held.

SECTION 30. AMENDMENT. Section 40-53.2-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-53.2-03. Municipal consolidation review commission. Upon passage by a simple majority of the votes cast on the question in each of the cities seeking consolidation in the manner provided by section 40-53.2-02, the governing body of each of the cities seeking consolidation shall appoint an equal number of the members of each governing body who shall convene as the municipal consolidation review commission to make a finding as to whether or not there is sufficient reason to further consider consolidation of the cities seeking consolidation. If the commission finds insufficient reason, no further consideration shall be given to the matter of consolidation of the cities. If the commission finds sufficient reason for consolidation, it shall develop a recommended plan of consolidation, holding such hearings on the plan as it deems appropriate. The commission shall submit its recommended plan to the voters of both cities. Upon receiving a majority affirmative vote of the electors of each city, voting on the question at a special election or any regular election, the review commission's recommended plan shall become effective on July first of the next year.

SECTION 31. AMENDMENT. Section 54-40.4-01 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-40.4-01. County-city home rule - City participation. One or more counties and one or more cities within each county may frame and adopt a home rule charter to form a single

unit of local government pursuant to this chapter. A county-city home rule charter may include a city that participates in proposing the charter if a majority of the qualified electors of the city voting on the question approve the proposed charter.

SECTION 32. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 54-40.4-05 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. If a majority of the qualified electors of the county and a majority of the qualified electors of at least one city in the county voting on the question approves the charter, it is ratified and becomes the organic law of the area on the first day of January or July next following the election. However, the proposed charter may condition the approval of the charter on separate approval by any number of specified counties or cities participating in the charter process.

SECTION 33. AMENDMENT. Section 54-40.4-06 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-40.4-06. Amendment or repeal - Discontinuance of participation.

1. A county-city home rule charter may be amended or repealed by a proposal submitted by the governing body of the unified county-city government or by a petition filed with the governing body signed by ten percent or more of the total number of qualified electors within the jurisdiction of the county-city government who voted in the last preceding general election. The governing body may appoint a charter commission to draft amendments to the charter. The proposals must be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the unified county-city government at the next primary or general election. The voters may accept or reject any amendment or a repeal by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the unified government voting on the question at the election.
2. A participating county or city may discontinue its participation in the unified county-city government by filing with the governing body a petition proposing the action that is signed by ten percent or more of the total number of qualified electors within the county or city. The proposal must be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors at the next primary or general election. The voters may accept or reject the proposal by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the county or city voting on the question at the election.

1 **SECTION 34. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **57-15-08. Tax levy limitations in cities.** The aggregate amount levied for general city
4 purposes may not exceed ~~such~~ an amount ~~as will be~~ produced by a levy of thirty-eight mills on
5 the taxable valuation of property in the city; provided, that in cities with a population of over five
6 thousand they be permitted to levy an additional one-half of one mill for each additional one
7 thousand population in excess of five thousand, and provided, further, that the maximum levy
8 for general city purposes may not exceed forty mills, except that ~~cities~~ a city, when authorized
9 by a majority vote of the electors of ~~such cities~~ the city voting on the question upon the
10 submission of such question at a regularly scheduled or special election called for such
11 purpose pursuant to a resolution approved by the governing body of such ~~cities~~ city, may
12 increase the maximum mill levy for general city purposes by not more than ten mills, and that
13 in a city supporting a band or public library an additional levy, not to exceed one mill on the
14 taxable valuation of property in such city, may be made for a band, and an additional levy not to
15 exceed four mills on the taxable valuation of property in such city may be made for a public
16 library.

17 **SECTION 35. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **57-15-12. Tax levy limitations in park districts.** In park districts tax levies have the
20 following limitations:

- 21 1. The aggregate amount levied for park district purposes, exclusive of levies to pay
22 interest on bonded debt and levies to pay and discharge the principal thereof, and
23 levies to pay the principal and interest on special assessments assessed and
24 levied against park board properties by other municipalities, may not exceed ~~such~~
25 an amount as will be produced by a levy of four mills on the dollar of the taxable
26 valuation of the district for the current year.
- 27 2. Any park district owning and operating an airport for which no city levy is made,
28 may levy an additional tax, ~~regardless of the foregoing limitations and in addition to~~
29 ~~the levies hereinbefore provided for~~, of not to exceed four mills on the dollar of the
30 taxable valuation of the district for the current year, such additional tax to be used
31 solely for the purpose of purchasing or acquiring lands necessary for said airport,

1 paying for land previously acquired for said airport, and for operating and
2 maintaining the same.

3 3. Whenever the board of park commissioners deems it advisable to raise moneys by
4 taxes in excess of the levy herein provided, for any purpose for which the park
5 district is authorized to expend moneys raised by taxes, the board of park
6 commissioners shall submit to the voters of the district the question of increasing
7 the levy by a certain number of mills, but not to exceed fifteen mills, on the dollar of
8 the taxable valuation of the district. When authorized by a majority of the qualified
9 electors of the park district voting on the question at an election in which the
10 question has been submitted, the board may increase the levy in the amount so
11 authorized. This excess levy may be continued from year to year by action of the
12 park board except that if a petition containing the signatures of not less than ten
13 percent of the qualified electors of the park district, as determined by the city
14 auditor of the municipality in which the park district is situated, is presented to the
15 park board requesting an election on the question of continuing the excess levy,
16 that question must be submitted to the qualified electors of the park district at the
17 next regular park district election. If the majority of the qualified electors voting on
18 the question at that election determine not to continue the excess levy, no further
19 excess levy may be made except that the election does not affect the tax levy in
20 the calendar year in which the election is held.

21 **SECTION 36. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **57-15-12.1. City or park district tax levy or service charge for forestry purposes.**

24 1. The governing body of a city or park district may annually levy a tax not in excess
25 of two mills on the taxable valuation of property within the city or park district, for
26 the purpose of providing funds for the establishment, operation, and maintenance
27 of forestry activities within the city or park district. The governing board of a city or
28 park district, upon approval by a majority vote of the qualified electors voting on
29 the question at any citywide or districtwide election, may also annually levy an
30 additional tax not in excess of three mills on the taxable valuation of property within
31 the city or park district, for the purpose of providing funds for forestry activities

1 within the city or park district. Any such tax is in addition to and not restricted by
2 any mill levy limit prescribed by law. The proceeds of any such levy may be used
3 for forestry activities, including, ~~but not limited to,~~ the following: prevention or
4 control of Dutch elm disease or other diseases which may affect trees, shrubs, and
5 other vegetation; purchasing, planting, or removal of trees, shrubs, and other
6 vegetation; pruning and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation;
7 purchasing of necessary equipment; hiring of personnel; contracting for services;
8 public information and technical assistance; and other items related to forestry
9 activities which may be necessary to provide for proper care, maintenance,
10 propagation, and improvement of forestry resources within the city or park district.

- 11 2. In lieu of a mill levy as specified in subsection 1, a city or park district may propose
12 a service charge as an alternative form of financing. Such alternative form of
13 financing must be approved by a majority vote of the qualified electors voting on
14 the question at any general or special citywide or districtwide election. The
15 proceeds of any service charge may be used for forestry activities, as specified in
16 subsection 1.

17 **SECTION 37. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-12.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **57-15-12.3. Tax levy for parks and recreational facilities.** A board of park
20 commissioners established pursuant to chapter 40-49, may levy taxes annually not exceeding
21 the limitation in subsection 5 of section 57-15-12.2 for a fund for the purpose of acquiring real
22 estate as a site for public parks, construction of recreational facilities, renovation and repair of
23 recreational facilities, and the furnishing of recreational facilities. The tax is to be levied,
24 spread, and collected in the same manner as are other taxes in the park district. The question
25 of whether the levy is to be discontinued must be submitted to the qualified electors at the next
26 regular election upon petition of twenty-five percent or more of the qualified electors voting in
27 the last regular park district election, if the petition is filed not less than sixty days before the
28 election. If the majority of the qualified electors voting on the question vote to discontinue the
29 levy, it may not again be levied without a majority vote of the qualified electors voting on the
30 question at a later regular election on the question of relevying the tax, which question may be
31 submitted upon petition as above provided or by decision of the governing board.

SECTION 38. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-14.5 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-14.5. Long-distance learning and educational technology levy - Voter approval.

1. The school board of a public school district may, upon approval by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the school district voting on the question at any regular or special election, dedicate a tax levy for purposes of this section not to exceed five mills on the dollar of taxable valuation of property within the district.
2. All revenue accruing from the levy under this section must be used only for purposes of establishing and maintaining long-distance learning and purchasing and maintaining educational technology. For purposes of this section, educational technology includes computer software, computers and computer networks, and other computerized equipment, which must be used for student instruction.
3. If the need for the fund terminates, the governing board of the public school district shall order the termination of the levy and shall transfer the remaining balance to the general fund of the school district.

SECTION 39. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-44 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-44. City tax levy for acquiring real estate for public building. The governing body of any city may levy taxes annually, not exceeding the limitation in subsection 22 of section 57-15-10 for a fund which must be used for the purpose of acquiring real estate as a site for public buildings, construction of public buildings, renovation and repair of public buildings, and the furnishing of public buildings, or for a city's participating share in urban renewal programs. The tax is to be levied, spread, and collected in the same manner as are other taxes in the city. Whether the levy shall be discontinued must be submitted to the qualified electors at the next regular election upon petition of twenty-five percent or more of the qualified electors voting in the last regular city election, the petition to be filed not less than sixty days before the election. If the majority of the qualified electors voting on the question vote to discontinue the levy, it may not again be levied without a majority vote of the qualified electors voting on the question at a later regular election on the question of relevying the tax, which

question may be submitted upon petition as above provided or by decision of the governing board.

SECTION 40. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-50 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-50. Levy authorized for county ambulance service. Upon petition of ten percent of the number of qualified electors of the county voting in the last election for governor or upon its own motion, the board of county commissioners of each county shall levy annually a tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection 23 of section 57-15-06.7, for the purpose of subsidizing county ambulance services; provided, that this tax must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the county voting on the question at a regular or special countywide election. The county may budget, in addition to its annual operating budget for subsidizing ambulance service, no more than ten percent of its annual operating budget as a depreciation expense to be set aside in a dedicated ambulance sinking fund deposited with the treasurer for the replacement of equipment and ambulances. The ten percent ambulance sinking fund must be in addition to the annual operating budget for subsidization, but the total of the annual operating budget and the annual ten percent ambulance sinking fund may not exceed the approved mill levy. If the county contains a rural ambulance service district or rural fire protection district that levies for and provides ambulance service, the property within that district is exempt from the county tax levy under this section upon notice from the governing body of the district to the board of county commissioners of the existence of the district.

SECTION 41. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-51 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-51. Levy authorized for city ambulance service. Upon petition of ten percent of the number of qualified electors of the city voting in the last election for governor or upon its own motion, the governing body of each city in this state shall levy annually a tax of not to exceed five mills upon its taxable valuation, for the purpose of subsidizing city ambulance services; provided, that such tax must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the city voting on the question at a regular or special city election. Whenever a tax for county ambulance services is levied by a county, any city levying a tax for, or subsidizing city ambulance services, shall upon written application to the county board of such county be exempted from such county tax levy. The city may set aside, as a depreciation expense, up to

1 ten percent of its annual ambulance service operating or subsidization budget in a dedicated
2 ambulance sinking fund, deposited with the auditor for replacement of equipment and
3 ambulances. The ten percent ambulance sinking fund may be in addition to the actual annual
4 ambulance budget but the total of the annual ambulance budget and the annual ten percent
5 ambulance fund may not exceed the approved mill levy.

6 **SECTION 42. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-55 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **57-15-55. Tax levy for public transportation.** The governing body of any city, upon
9 approval by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the city voting on the question at any
10 citywide election, may annually levy a tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection 25 of
11 section 57-15-10 to provide funds for the provision and operation of a public transportation
12 system within the city under a contract approved by the governing body with a private
13 contractor, or by the city itself.

14 **SECTION 43. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-55.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **57-15-55.1. City tax levy for transportation of public school students.** The
17 governing body of any city, upon approval by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the city
18 voting on the question at any citywide election, may annually levy a tax on the taxable valuation
19 of property within the city to provide funds for fees charged by a school district pursuant to
20 section 15-34.2-06.1 for transportation for public school students who reside in the city but who
21 attend school in another city in the same school district. A city levying a tax pursuant to this
22 section may levy only so much as will be required to provide an amount representing the
23 difference between the estimated state transportation payment to be received by the school
24 district on behalf of students residing in the city but attending school outside of the city and the
25 estimated actual cost to be incurred by the district in providing transportation for those students.

26 **SECTION 44. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 57-15-56 of the North Dakota
27 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 28 3. The levy authorized by this section may be imposed or removed only by a vote of a
29 majority of the qualified electors of the county or city voting on the question
30 directing the governing body to do so. The governing body shall put the issue
31 before the qualified electors either on its own motion or when a petition in writing,

signed by qualified electors of the county or city equal in number to at least ten percent of the total vote cast in the county or city for the office of governor of the state at the last general election, is presented to ~~said~~ the governing body.

SECTION 45. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 57-15-60 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. The levy authorized by this section may be imposed or removed only by a vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question in an election in the county, city, or park district. The governing body shall put the issue before the qualified electors either on its own motion or when a petition in writing, signed by qualified electors of the county or city equal in number to at least ten percent of the total vote cast in the county or city for the office of governor of the state at the last general election, is presented to that governing body.

SECTION 46. AMENDMENT. Section 61-04.1-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

61-04.1-29. Creation of weather modification authority by election. When a petition signed by not less than twenty percent of the qualified electors of the county, as determined by the vote cast for the office of governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election, requesting an election upon the establishment of a weather modification authority is presented to the board of county commissioners, not later than forty-five days prior to the next countywide election, the board of county commissioners shall submit the question to the qualified electors of the county at the next countywide election. Upon approval by a majority of the votes cast on the question, the board of county commissioners shall, by resolution, establish a weather modification authority as described in section 61-04.1-23 with all powers set out in this chapter, including the power to certify a tax levy as provided by section 61-04.1-26.

SECTION 47. AMENDMENT. Section 61-04.1-30 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

61-04.1-30. Abolishment of weather modification authority by election. When a petition signed by not less than twenty percent of the qualified electors of the county, as determined by the vote cast for governor in the last preceding gubernatorial election, requesting an election upon the abolishment of a weather modification authority as created in sections

1 61-04.1-27 and 61-04.1-29 is presented to the board of county commissioners, not later than
2 forty-five days prior to the next countywide election, the board of county commissioners shall
3 submit the question to the qualified electors of the county at the next countywide election.
4 Upon approval by a majority of the votes cast on the question, the board of county
5 commissioners shall abolish the weather modification authority as of December thirty-first
6 following the election. All unexpended funds remaining in the name of the weather modification
7 authority, after all proper bills and expenses have been paid, shall be deposited in the general
8 fund of the county.

9 **SECTION 48. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-31 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **61-04.1-31. Creation of weather modification authority by vote after resolution of**
12 **county commissioners.** The board of county commissioners of any county may, by resolution
13 after a public hearing, submit the question of the creation of a weather modification authority to
14 the electors of the county at the next countywide election. Upon approval by a majority of the
15 votes cast on the question, the board of county commissioners shall pass a resolution creating
16 a weather modification authority, as described in section 61-04.1-23. Such an authority shall
17 have all powers provided by this chapter, including the authority to levy a tax as provided by
18 section 61-04.1-26.