

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

SENATE BILL NO. 2172
(Senators Watne, Schobinger)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 4-22-17, 4-22-22, and 4-22-48 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the election of soil conservation district supervisors and consolidation of soil conservation districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 4-22-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-22-17. Nominating petitions - Petitions required - Final filing date. Any person running for the office of supervisor shall present to the county auditor of the county in which the district lies a petition giving that person's name, ~~post office and mailing address;~~ and the title and term of the office, and containing the signatures of not less than twenty-five nor more than three hundred qualified electors of the district. When a district lies in more than one county, the petition must be filed with the county auditor of the county where the candidate resides, and such county auditor shall certify to the county auditors of the other counties in which such district lies the name and mailing address of the candidate filing such petition. At the same time, the county auditor, or auditors in the case of multicounty districts, shall also certify to the secretary of state the name and mailing address of each person filing a nominating petition according to this section. No person may participate directly or indirectly in the nomination for more than one person for each office to be filled. The final filing date for nominating petitions is no later than sixty days before the day of the election and not later than four p.m. of such day.

Upon receipt of the petition or the certification as provided in this section, the county auditor shall without fee place the name of the candidate so nominated on the no-party ballot at the ensuing general election.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 4-22-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-22-22. Supervisors - Terms of office - Vacancies - Removal - Compensation - Expenses. At the general election to be held in 1972, three district supervisors must be elected. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes is elected for a six-year term; the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes is elected for a four-year term; and the candidate receiving the third highest number of votes is elected for a two-year term. At each succeeding general election, one supervisor must be elected for a term of six years, or until the successor is duly elected and qualified, to each expiring or vacant term. In newly formed districts, three supervisors must be elected at the first general election following the district's organization. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes is elected for a six-year term; the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes is elected for a four-year term; and the candidate receiving the third highest number of votes is elected for a two-year term. At each succeeding general election, one supervisor must be elected for a term of six years, or until the successor is duly elected and qualified, to each expiring or vacant term. The county auditor of the county or counties in which the district lies shall return to the secretary of state ~~within fifteen days before four p.m. on the tenth day~~ following any general election a certified abstract of the votes cast in the county at such election for each candidate for district supervisor. ~~At the time that the county auditor transmits the certified abstract of the votes cast for each candidate, the county auditor shall file with the secretary of state a certificate showing the name and address of each candidate.~~ The secretary of state shall canvass the returns and issue certificates of election under chapter 16.1-15.

In order to be eligible for election to the office of supervisor, candidates must be land occupiers and physically living in the district. Candidates must be elected on a nonpartisan ballot. In case the office of any supervisor, for any reason, becomes vacant, the remaining members of the board of supervisors shall, with the advice and consent of the ~~state~~ committee, fill the vacancy by appointment. If vacancies occur in the office of two supervisors, the remaining supervisor and the ~~state~~ committee shall fill the vacancy; and in case the offices of all supervisors of a district become vacant, the ~~state~~ committee shall fill the vacancies by appointment. A supervisor appointed to fill a vacancy holds office until the next general election. A supervisor elected to fill a vacancy serves the balance of the unexpired term in which the vacancy occurred.

Any soil conservation district, upon resolution of the three elected supervisors, may appoint two additional supervisors who shall serve for a term of one year from and after the date of their appointment. Such supervisors must be appointed by a majority of the three elected supervisors and have all the powers, voting privileges, duties, and responsibilities of elected supervisors, except that the expense allowances of the appointed supervisors must be paid by the local soil conservation district concerned. As far as possible, the appointed supervisors shall represent interests within the district which are not represented by the elected supervisors.

Any supervisor of a soil conservation district may, after notice given and hearing held in accordance with chapter 28-32, be removed from office by the ~~state~~ committee.

The supervisors of soil conservation districts are entitled to receive, upon a majority vote of the supervisors, twenty-five dollars for attending each regular or special meeting as compensation for their services. Supervisors of soil conservation districts are entitled to receive travel and subsistence expenses necessarily incurred in attending district, state, or other meetings approved by the state soil conservation committee, which expenses must be paid from appropriations available to the state committee. The compensation and all other expenses including travel incurred by district supervisors while transacting district business and not specifically authorized by the state soil conservation committee must be paid from district funds.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 4-22-48 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-22-48. Conduct of referendum - Canvass of votes. A referendum upon the question of consolidating two or more soil conservation districts must be conducted in accordance with the laws of the state prescribing the conduct of general elections. After the polls are closed, the board of election shall ~~proceed to~~ canvass the votes and the clerk of the board shall certify to the board of supervisors of the clerk's district and to the ~~state~~ committee the result of the referendum. ~~The clerk shall then securely wrap the ballots cast at the referendum and shall express or mail the ballots to the secretary of the state committee. The committee shall also canvass the ballots and verify the result. The secretary of the committee shall file the ballots in the secretary's office. Upon the expiration of two years after such ballots were canvassed by the state committee they may be destroyed.~~

The ~~state~~ committee shall publish the results of the referendum ~~after having canvassed the ballots and if the committee finds that~~ and if a majority of the ballots cast on the question in each district are for consolidation, the committee shall file with the secretary of state a statement certifying that the consolidated district has been duly and regularly established.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2172.

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 0 Absent 4

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State