

Fifty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1124

Introduced by

Judiciary Committee

(At the request of the Secretary of State)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 16.1-11-27 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to name rotation on ballots; and to repeal section 16.1-11-28 of the North Dakota  
3 Century Code, relating to piling, cutting, and blocking ballots.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-11-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **16.1-11-27. Arrangement of names on ballots and ~~voting machines.~~**

8 ~~4.~~ Sample ballots used for publication purposes must be arranged using the rotation  
9 of the ballot in the precinct in the county which cast the highest total vote for  
10 governor at the last general election at which the office of governor was filled.

11 ~~2.~~ On the official ballot used at the election, including electronic voting system ballots,  
12 the names of candidates beside or under headings designating each office to be  
13 voted for must be alternated in the following manner:

14 ~~a.~~ 1. The ballot must first be arranged with all the names for each office on the ballot in  
15 an order determined by lot by the county auditor ~~or responsible election official~~ and  
16 prepared by the county auditor for all state, district, and county offices.

17 ~~b.~~ ~~In printing each set of official ballots for the various election precincts, the~~  
18 ~~position of the names must be changed in each office division as many times~~  
19 ~~as there are candidates in the office division in which there are the most~~  
20 ~~names. The same number of ballots must be printed after each change of~~  
21 ~~position.~~

22 ~~c.~~ ~~In making the changes of position, the printer shall take the candidate's name~~  
23 ~~at the head of each office division and place it at the bottom of that division,~~

moving the column up so the name that was second before the change is first  
after the change.

~~3. 2.~~ 2. In precincts employing voting machines, the The position of names which that  
require alternating under the provisions of this section must be alternated so the  
name appearing first in one precinct will be last in the next precinct, and the name  
that appeared second must be first in the next precinct, and so on until each name  
has been moved up or over one space accordingly. This process must be  
continued from one precinct to another and for as many names as are involved.  
There must be a different alternation sequence for each of the following, based on  
the geographical area by which the office is filled:

- a. Offices to be filled by the electors of the state, the entire county, or any district  
which includes the entire county.
- b. Offices to be filled by the electors of districts smaller than the county, with a  
different rotation for each of those districts.

~~4. 3.~~ 3. The precincts must be arranged according to the total votes cast for governor at  
the last general election in which the office of governor was filled, starting with the  
precinct having the highest total votes cast and ending with the precinct having the  
lowest total votes cast in that election.

~~5.~~ 4. ~~If there are more than three candidates for any office, and it is not possible to place  
all of the names on one line, the names must be placed in two or more lines having  
an equal or nearly equal number of names on each line; provided, that in no event  
may only one name appear on any line.~~

**SECTION 2. REPEAL.** Section 16.1-11-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is

repealed.