

Introduced by

Senators Olafson, G. Lee

Representative Charging

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 44-08-21 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to recalls of elected officials of political subdivisions.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 44-08-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **44-08-21. Recall of elected officials of political subdivisions.** An elected official of
7 a political subdivision, except an official subject to recall pursuant to section 10 of article III of
8 the Constitution of North Dakota, is subject to recall by petition of electors equal in number to
9 twenty-five percent of the voters who voted in the most recent election that the official sought to
10 be recalled was on the ballot, not including other recall elections. An official who was
11 appointed to fill a vacancy is subject to recall by petition of electors equal in number to
12 twenty-five percent of the voters who voted in the most recent election that the office of the
13 official sought to be recalled was on the ballot, not including other recall elections. The
14 provisions of section 16.1-01-09.1, as they relate to signing and circulating recall petitions,
15 apply to petitions under this section.

16 A recall petition must include a stated reason for the recall and be approved as to form
17 prior to circulation by the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall complete the review of
18 the form of a recall petition in not less than five, nor more than seven, business days, excluding
19 Saturdays. To be effective, a recall petition must be submitted to the appropriate filing officer
20 within ninety days after the date the recall petition is approved for circulation by the secretary of
21 state.

22 Once circulated, the recall petition must be filed with the filing officer with whom a
23 petition for nomination to the office in question is filed unless that filing officer is the person
24 subject to recall, in which case the petition must be filed with the secretary of state. The filing

1 officer with whom the petition is filed shall pass on the sufficiency of a petition pursuant to
2 section 16.1-01-09.1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the filing officer shall call a
3 special election to be held not sooner than ~~fifty~~ eighty days nor later than ~~sixty~~ ninety days
4 following the date the filing officer certifies the petition valid and sufficient. No special election
5 may be called if that date would be within ninety days of the next scheduled election. An
6 elector's name may not be removed from a recall petition.

7 The name of the official to be recalled must be placed on the ballot unless the official
8 resigns within ten days after the filing officer certifies the petition is valid and sufficient. Other
9 candidates for the office may be nominated in a manner provided by law and shall file
10 nominating papers with the appropriate filing officer by the ~~thirty-third~~ sixtieth day before the
11 scheduled recall election. If the official resigns, the appropriate political subdivision governing
12 body may call a special election or appoint a person to complete the unexpired term of the
13 office. When the election results have been officially declared, the candidate receiving the
14 highest number of votes is elected for the remainder of the term. No official is subject to recall
15 twice during the term for which the official was elected. An official whose ~~term expires~~ office is
16 on the ballot at a regularly scheduled election occurring within one ~~hundred ninety days after~~
17 ~~the date the petition is submitted to the secretary of state for approval for circulation~~ year is not
18 subject to recall.