

Sixty-second
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1354

Introduced by

Representatives Kretschmar, Delmore

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 16.1-13-10 and subsection 3 of section
2 44-02-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to filling a vacancy in a legislative office
3 and resignation of a member of the legislative assembly.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-13-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **16.1-13-10. Vacancy existing in office of member of legislative assembly.**

8 1. If a vacancy in the office of a member of the legislative assembly occurs during a
9 regular legislative session, the county auditor of the county in which the former
10 member resides or resided shall notify the chairman of the legislative management of
11 the vacancy. The county auditor need not notify the chairman of the legislative
12 management of the resignation of a member of the legislative assembly when the
13 resignation was made under section 44-02-02. Upon receiving notification of a
14 vacancy, the chairman of the legislative management shall notify the district committee
15 of the political party that the former member represented in the district in which the
16 vacancy exists. The district committee shall hold a meeting within twenty-one days
17 after receiving the notification and select an individual to fill the vacancy. If the former
18 member was elected as an independent candidate or if the district committee does not
19 make an appointment within twenty-one days after receiving the notice from the
20 chairman of the legislative management, the chairman of the legislative management
21 shall appoint a resident of the district to fill the vacancy. ~~Except as provided in~~
22 ~~subsection 2, if eight hundred twenty-eight days or more remain until the expiration of~~
23 ~~the term of office for that office, the~~ The individual appointed to fill the vacancy shall
24 serve until a successor is elected at and qualified following the next general election or

special election called by the governor according to subsection 2 to serve for the remainder of the term of office for that office.

2. ~~The qualified electors of a legislative district in which a vacancy in the legislative assembly occurs may petition for a special election to be called by the governor to fill the vacancy. The petition must include the signatures of qualified electors equal in number to four percent of the resident population of the legislative district as determined by the last federal decennial census and must be presented to the secretary of state within thirty days following an appointment being made according to subsection 1. If the secretary of state determines the petition contains the required number of signatures of qualified electors of the affected legislative district, the secretary of state shall notify the governor that a special election is required to be called to fill the vacancy. Upon receiving such notice, the governor shall issue a writ of election directed to the county auditor of each affected county commanding the county auditor to hold a special election to fill the vacancy at a time designated by the governor.~~ If a vacancy in the office of a member of the legislative assembly occurs while the legislative assembly is not in regular session, the county auditor of the county in which the former member resides or resided shall notify the chairman of the legislative management and the governor of the vacancy. A county auditor need not notify the chairman of the legislative management and the governor of the resignation of a member of the legislative assembly when the resignation was made under section 44-02-02. Upon receiving notification of a vacancy, the governor, if there is a regular session of the legislative assembly between the time the vacancy occurs and the next general election, shall issue a writ of election directed to the county auditor of each affected county directing the county auditor to hold a special election to fill the vacancy at a time designated by the governor. If there is no regular session of the legislative assembly between the time the vacancy occurs and the next general election and the term of office for that office does not end before the next regular session of the legislative assembly, the governor shall direct that a special election be held at the same time as the general election. If there is no regular session of the legislative assembly between the time the vacancy occurs and the expiration of the term of office of the member whose office is vacated, the governor may issue a writ of election to

1 hold a special election to fill the vacancy. An individual elected to fill a vacancy shall
2 serve for the remainder of the term of office for that office. A special election under this
3 section must conform to the applicable election deadlines found in this title and ~~may~~
4 ~~be~~if called to coincide with a regularly scheduled ~~primary or general~~ election ~~provided,~~
5 the special election ~~is~~must be called by the fifteenth day before the deadline for
6 candidates to file for office before ~~a regularly scheduled primary or general~~the election.
7 ~~A special election under this section may not be scheduled to occur during the time~~
8 ~~from a general election through eighty days following the adjournment of the next~~
9 ~~ensuing regular session of the legislative assembly.~~

- 10 3. The secretary of state must be notified of an appointment made by a district committee
11 or the chairman of the legislative management according to this section. Upon
12 notification, the secretary of state shall issue the appointee a certificate of appointment
13 and an oath of office for the appointee to complete and file with the secretary of state.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 44-02-02 of the North Dakota Century
15 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 16 3. A member of the legislative assembly, to the presiding officer of the branch of which
17 the individual is a member, when in session, and when not in session, to the chairman
18 of the legislative management and governor. When made to the presiding officer, the
19 presiding officer at once shall notify the chairman of the legislative management and
20 governor of the resignation.