

February 17, 2011

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1302

Page 3, remove lines 6 through 31

Page 4, replace lines 1 through 27 with:

"SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 4.1-11-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4.1-11-04. Election of county representative.

- ~~1. a. No later than March first of the year in which the term of a council member is to expire, the extension agent for each county in that member's district shall hold a meeting of soybean producers for the purpose of electing a county representative.~~
 - ~~b. The county extension agent shall publish notice of the meeting in the official newspaper of the county for two consecutive weeks. The last notice must be published no fewer than five nor more than ten days before the meeting.~~
 - ~~c. The meeting must be held within the county.~~
 - ~~d. During the meeting, the county extension agent shall conduct the election.~~
 - ~~e. Any producer who resides in the county may vote in the election.~~
 - ~~f. The county extension agent shall canvass the votes, notify the director of the North Dakota state university extension service and the council that the election has taken place, and provide to the director and the council the name and address of the newly elected county representative.~~
- ~~2. Subsection 1 does not apply if the county extension agent, in consultation with the executive director of the county farm service agency office, determines and notifies the council that no soybean producers willing to serve as county representatives reside within the county.~~
 1. Before January first, the council shall identify each district represented by a council member whose term is about to expire and notify the extension agent for each county in that member's district that an election to select a county representative must occur before March first.
 2. Each year during the month of January, each county extension agent required to conduct an election in accordance with this section shall publish notice of the election in the official newspaper of the county for one week. The notice must contain a description of the election process, a request for the nomination of potential candidates for the position, and a deadline for the receipt of all nominations.

3. In order for a nomination to be valid, it must be submitted to the county extension agent in writing and signed by a nominating producer who resides in the county. The county extension agent shall determine if a nomination is valid. A decision by the county extension agent under this subsection is final.
4. The county extension agent shall:
 - a. Compile all valid nominations;
 - b. Contact each nominee to determine if the nominee consents to being on the ballot; and
 - c. Forward the name of each nominee to the council.
5. The council shall prepare the election ballots and mail to each producer of record in the county:
 - a. A ballot;
 - b. A stamped self-addressed return envelope;
 - c. Instructions for completing and returning the ballot; and
 - d. A statement indicating the last date by which the ballots must be postmarked or filed with the county extension agent.
6. The county extension agent shall publish notice of the pending election in the official newspaper of the county for one week. The notice must announce the election, provide information regarding the manner in which a producer may obtain a ballot if one was not received by mail, and indicate the deadline by which all ballots must be returned.
7. Any producer who resides in the county may vote in the election.
8. Immediately after the passing of the deadline by which the ballots must be returned, the county extension agent shall:
 - a. Tabulate the ballots;
 - b. Notify the director of the North Dakota state university extension service and the council that the election has taken place and provide to the director and the council the name and address of the newly elected county representative; and
 - c. Notify the newly elected county representative.
9. Subsections 1 through 8 do not apply if the county extension agent, in consultation with the executive director of the county farm service agency office, determines and notifies the council that no soybean producers willing to serve as county representatives reside within the county."

Renumber accordingly