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## FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-second Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

# **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1447**

Introduced by

Representatives Koppelman, Boehning, Carlson, Owens, Thoreson

1	A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 16.1-05 of the North Dakota-
2	Century Code, relating to the appointment of poll checkers; to amend and reenact sections-
3	16.1-02-05, 16.1-05-04, 16.1-05-07, 16.1-10-06.1, 16.1-15-06, 16.1-15-08, and 58-04-09 of the
4	North Dakota Century Code, relating to verification of eligibility of voters; and to repeal section-
5	16.1-05-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to challenging the right to vote.for an Act
6	to create and enact a new section to chapter 16.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code,
7	relating to the appointment of poll checkers; to amend and reenact sections 16.1-02-05,
8	16.1-05-04, 16.1-05-07, 16.1-10-06.1, and 58-04-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating
9	to verification of eligibility of voters; to repeal section 16.1-05-06 of the North Dakota Century
0	Code, relating to challenging the right to vote; to provide for a legislative management study;
11	and to provide a penalty.

#### 12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

13	—SEC	CTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14	amende	d and reenacted as follows:
15	<del>16.1</del>	-02-05. Entry of new voters into the central voter file - Query of the central voter
16	file for o	double voting - Challenges - Postelection verification.
17	<del>1.</del>	Within forty-five days following an election, the county auditor shall enter the name
18		and required information of each individual who voted at the last election who is not
19		already contained in the central voter file and update any required information
20		requested and obtained at the last election for any individual contained in the central
21		voter file.
22	<del>2</del> .	The secretary of state, with the assistance of the county auditors, within eighty-five-
23		days following an election, shall query the central voter file to determine if any
24		individual voted more than once during the preceding election. The secretary of state

shall immediately notify the county auditor and state's attorney in each affected county for further investigation.

- 3. Upon return of any nonforwardable mail from an election official, the county auditor shall ascertain the name and address of that individual. If the individual is no longer at the address recorded in the central voter file, the county auditor shall transfer the voter to the correct precinct in the central voter file or notify the county of the voter's new residence so the voter record can be transferred to the correct county. If a notice mailed at least sixty days after the return of the first nonforwardable mail is also returned by the postal service, the county auditor shall designate the individual as "inactive" in the central voter file.
- 4. Within forty-five days after an election, the county auditor shall send a notice to each individual who was challenged on election day according to section 16.1-05-06. If a notice is returned as not deliverable, the county auditor shall attempt to determine the reason for the return. A county auditor who does not receive or obtain satisfactory proof of an individual's eligibility to vote shall notify immediately the state's attorney to conduct an investigation of the individual's eligibility to vote in that election.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-05-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

### 16.1-05-04. Duties of the members of the election board during polling hours.

- The election inspector shall supervise the conduct of the election to ensure all election
  officials are properly performing their duties at the polling place. The election inspector
  shall assign duties so as to equally and fairly include both parties represented on the
  election board.
- 2. The election inspector shall assign ministerial duties to poll clerks, who shall carry out the ministerial duties assigned by the election inspector.
- 3. The election inspector shall assign the poll clerks to perform the function of maintaining the pollbook. The designated poll clerks shall maintain the pollbook. The pollbook must contain the name and address of each individual voting at the precinct and must be arranged in the form and manner prescribed by the secretary of state.

	<del>4.</del>	The members of the election board shall challenge the right of anyone to vote whom
2		they know or have reason to believe is not a qualified elector by requiring the elector
3		to complete and sign a voter's affidavit.
4	<del>5.</del>	Each member of the election board shall remain on the premises of the polling place
5		during the time the polls are open to prevent the occurrence of fraud, deceit, or other
6		irregularity in the conduct of the election.
7	<del>6.<u>5.</u></del>	All members of the election board shall distribute ballots and other election materials
8		to electors. An election judge from each party represented on the election board shall-
9		give any assistance requested by electors in marking ballots or operating electronic
10		voting system devices.
11	—7. <u>6.</u>	Each member of the election board shall maintain order in the polling place.
12	—SEC	CTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-05-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13	amende	d and reenacted as follows:
14	<del>16.1</del>	-05-07. Poll clerks to check identification and verify eligibility - Poll clerks to
15	request	, correct, and update incorrect information contained in the pollbook.
16	<del>1.</del>	Before deliveringa member of an election board delivers a ballot to an individual
17		according to section 16.1-13-22, the poll clerks shall request the individual to show
		identification, which includes the individual's residential address and date of birth.
18		dentification, which includes the individual's residential address and date of birth.
18 19		The An approved form of identification may include includes:
19		The An approved form of identification may include includes:
19 20		The An approved form of identification may include includes:  a. An official form of identification issued by the state;
19 20 21		The An approved form of identification may include includes:  a. An official form of identification issued by the state;  b. An official form of identification issued by a tribal government;
19 20 21 22		The An approved form of identification may include includes:  a. An official form of identification issued by the state;  b. An official form of identification issued by a tribal government;  c. A form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state; or
19 20 21 22 23		The An approved form of identification may include includes:  a. An official form of identification issued by the state;  b. An official form of identification issued by a tribal government;  c. A form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state; or  d. A combination of any of the forms of identification under subdivisions a through c.
19 20 21 22 23 24		The An approved form of identification may include includes:  a. An official form of identification issued by the state;  b. An official form of identification issued by a tribal government;  c. A form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state; or  d. A combination of any of the forms of identification under subdivisions a through c.  If an individual offering to vote does not have or refuses to show an appropriate form
19 20 21 22 23 24 25		The An approved form of identification may include includes:  a. An official form of identification issued by the state;  b. An official form of identification issued by a tribal government;  c. A form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state; or  d. A combination of any of the forms of identification under subdivisions a through c.  If an individual offering to vote does not have or refuses to show an appropriate form of identification, the individual may be allowed to vote without being challenged
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26		The An approved form of identification may include includes:  a. An official form of identification issued by the state;  b. An official form of identification issued by a tribal government;  c. A form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state; or  d. A combination of any of the forms of identification under subdivisions a through c.  If an individual offering to vote does not have or refuses to show an appropriate form of identification, the individual may be allowed to vote without being challenged according to section 16.1-05-06 if the individual provides to the election board the
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27		The An approved form of identification may include includes:  a. An official form of identification issued by the state;  b. An official form of identification issued by a tribal government;  c. A form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state; or  d. A combination of any of the forms of identification under subdivisions a through c.  If an individual offering to vote does not have or refuses to show an appropriate form of identification, the individual may be allowed to vote without being challenged according to section 16.1-05-06 if the individual provides to the election board the individual's date of birth and if a member of the election board or a poll clerk knows the

# Sixty-second Legislative Assembly

1	3. If an individual offering to vote does not meet either of the options set forth in
2	subsection 1 or 2, the election board shall challenge the individual's right to vote and
3	the individual may not vote unless the individual executes a voter's affidavit, as-
4	provided in section 16.1-05-06.
5	— 4. a. When verifying an individual's eligibility or when entering the name of an
6	individual into the pollbook, poll clerks shall request, correct, and update any
7	incorrect or incomplete information about an individual required to be included in
8	the pollbook generated from the central voter file.
9	b. If the individual's name is contained in the pollbook generated from the central
10	voter file, the poll clerks shall verify the individual's residential address and
11	mailing address, if different from the individual's residential address.
12	c. If the individual's name is not contained in the pollbook generated from the
13	central voter file but the individual is determined eligible to vote, the poll clerks-
14	shall record the individual's name in the pollbook. The poll clerks shall request-
15	and obtain any additional information for the individual required to be included in-
16	the pollbook.
17	-5.4. Poll clerks shall direct an individual who is attempting to vote in the incorrect precinct
18	to the proper precinct and voting location.
19	5. If an individual offering to vote does not meet either of the options set forth in
20	subsection 1 or 2, the election board shall offer the individual the opportunity to
21	execute a voter's affidavit acknowledged before an election board member.
22	6. The voter's affidavit must include:
23	a. The name of the affiant.
24	<u>b.</u> <u>The address of the affiant.</u>
25	<u>c.</u> <u>The birth date of the affiant.</u>
26	d. The contact telephone number of the affiant.
27	e. The address of the affiant at the time the affiant last voted.
28	f. The previous last name of the affiant if it was different when the affiant last voted.
29	g. The identification number and state of any state-issued identification regardless
30	of the state in which the identification was issued, if available.

1	to the official's office with approved identification to the canvassing board for
2	canvassing and forward the remaining ballots to the county canvassing board marked
3	as "rejected - elector failed to verify qualification".
4	SECTION 4. A new section to chapter 16.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5	and enacted as follows:
6	— Poll checkers.
7	The district chairman of each political party represented on the election board may appoint
8	up to three poll checkers to a polling place. A poll checker may not interfere with the election
9	process or with the members of the election board in the performance of the member's duties. A
10	poll checker may not be a member of the election board. The district chairman shall notify the
11	county auditor of each county contained in the legislative district one day before the day of the
12	election of the name of any individual the district chairman has appointed to serve as a poll-
13	checker in the legislative district.
14	SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-10-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15	amended and reenacted as follows:
16	16.1-10-06.1. Paying for certain election-related activities prohibited.
17	——No
18	1. A person may not pay another personany individual for:
19	— 1. <u>a.</u> Any loss or damage due to attendance at the polls;
20	- 2. <u>b.</u> Registering;
21	- 3. <u>c.</u> The expense of transportation to or from the polls; or
22	4. d. Personal services to be performed on the day of a caucus, primary election, or
23	any election which tend in any way, directly or indirectly, to affect the result of
24	such caucus or election.
25	The provisions of this
26	2. This section dodoes not apply to the hiring of a personan individual whose sole duty it
27	is to act as a challengerduties are to observe the polls and to watch the count of
28	official ballots.
29	SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-15-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30	amended and reenacted as follows:

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16.1-15-06. Reports and pollbooks sent to county auditor - Compensation for making returns.

Immediately following the canvass, except in cases of emergency or inclement weather, the inspector of elections, or one of the judges appointed by the inspector of elections, personally shall deliver one of the signed canvass reports provided for in section 16.1-15-04 to the county auditor. The sealed ballots of voters executing affidavits under section 16.1-05-07 and reports, carefully sealed under cover, accompanied by the pollbook provided for in sections 16.1-02-13 and 16.1-06-21 with the oaths of the inspector and poll clerks affixed thereto, must be delivered properly to the county auditor. The person making the return shall receive compensation therefor in accordance with section 16.1-05-05. The compensation and mileage must be paid out of the county treasury on a warrant of the county auditor and is full compensation for returning all used or voided ballots to the proper official.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-15-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-15-08. Wrapping and returning of ballots to county recorder.

After generating the reports and poll lists provided for in section 16.1-15-06 and providing the sealed ballots of voters executing affidavits provided for in section 16.1-05-07 for delivery tothe county auditor, the election board shall cause the ballots containing lawful write-in votescast at the election to be placed in a suitable wrapper to form a complete wrapper for the ballots. All ballots without write-in votes shall be wrapped in a similar manner. The ballots and wrappers must then be tightly secured at the outer end to completely envelop and hold the ballots together. Ballots that are void must be secured in a separate wrapper and must be marked "void". Ballots that are spoiled must be separately secured and marked "spoiled". Insealing ballots, the various classes of ballots must be kept separate. Each wrapper must be endorsed with the names or numbers of the precincts and the date on which the election washeld. The wrappers must be sealed securely in a manner prescribed by the county auditor sothe wrappers cannot be opened without an obvious and permanent breaking of the seal. The ballots, together with those found void or spoiled, and the opened envelopes from votedabsentee ballots and the unopened envelopes of absentee ballots rejected as defective, mustbe returned in person to the county recorder. At the meeting of the county canvassing board, the county recorder shall deliver the ballots containing lawful write-in votes from all the precincts-

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1	within th	ne county. At the meeting of the county canvassing board, the county recorder shall
2	<del>deliver c</del>	each ballot that may contain a write-in vote referenced in a demand made under
3	subsect	ion 1 of section 16.1-12-02.2. Ballots used with any electronic voting system or counted-
4	<del>by an el</del>	ectronic counting machine must be sealed and returned as provided in this section. The
5	sealed k	pallot of any voter whose affidavit has been verified with the county auditor must be
6	<u>delivere</u>	d to the canvassing board for tabulation.
7	—SEC	CTION 8. AMENDMENT. Section 58-04-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8	amende	ed and reenacted as follows:
9	<del>58-</del> (	04-09. Challenge to voter - Duty of judges.
10	——If ar	ny personindividual offering to vote at any election or upon any question arising at a
11	townshi	p meeting is challenged as unqualified using the criteria provided in section-
12	<del>16.1-05</del>	-06chapter 16.1-05, the judges shall proceed in the manner in which judges at a general
13	election	are required to proceed, adapting the affidavit described in section 16.1-05-06chapter
14	<del>16.1-05</del>	to the circumstances of the township meeting.
15	—SEC	CTION 9. REPEAL. Section 16.1-05-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.
16	SEC	CTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17	amende	ed and reenacted as follows:
18	16.1	I-02-05. Entry of new voters into the central voter file - Query of the central voter
19	file for (	double voting - <del>Challenges -</del> Postelection verification.
20	1.	Within forty-five days following an election, the county auditor shall enter the name
21		and required information of each individual who voted at the last election who is not
22		already contained in the central voter file and update any required information
23		requested and obtained at the last election for any individual contained in the central
24		voter file.
25	2.	The secretary of state, with the assistance of the county auditors, within eighty-five
26		days following an election, shall query the central voter file to determine if any
27		individual voted more than once during the preceding election. The secretary of state
28		shall immediately notify the county auditor and state's attorney in each affected county
29		for further investigation.
30	3.	Upon return of any nonforwardable mail from an election official, the county auditor

shall ascertain the name and address of that individual. If the individual is no longer at

the address recorded in the central voter file, the county auditor shall transfer the voter to the correct precinct in the central voter file or notify the county of the voter's new residence so the voter record can be transferred to the correct county. If a notice mailed at least sixty days after the return of the first nonforwardable mail is also returned by the postal service, the county auditor shall designate the individual as "inactive" in the central voter file.

4. Within forty-five days after an election, the county auditor shall send a notice to each individual who was challenged on election day according to section 16.1-05-06. If a notice is returned as not deliverable, the county auditor shall attempt to determine the reason for the return. A county auditor who does not receive or obtain satisfactory proof of an individual's eligibility to vote shall notify immediately the state's attorney to conduct an investigation of the individual's eligibility to vote in that election.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-05-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

## 16.1-05-04. Duties of the members of the election board during polling hours.

- The election inspector shall supervise the conduct of the election to ensure all election
  officials are properly performing their duties at the polling place. The election inspector
  shall assign duties so as to equally and fairly include both parties represented on the
  election board.
- 2. The election inspector shall assign ministerial duties to poll clerks, who shall carry out the ministerial duties assigned by the election inspector.
- 3. The election inspector shall assign the poll clerks to perform the function of maintaining the pollbook. The designated poll clerks shall maintain the pollbook. The pollbook must contain the name and address of each individual voting at the precinct and must be arranged in the form and manner prescribed by the secretary of state.
- 4. The members of the election board shall challenge the right of anyone to vote whom they know or have reason to believe is not a qualified elector by requiring the elector to complete and sign a voter's affidavit.
- 5. Each member of the election board shall remain on the premises of the polling place during the time the polls are open to prevent the occurrence of fraud, deceit, or other irregularity in the conduct of the election.

- 6.5. All members of the election board shall distribute ballots and other election materials to electors. An election judge from each party represented on the election board shall give any assistance requested by electors in marking ballots or operating electronic voting system devices.
- 7.6. Each member of the election board shall maintain order in the polling place.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-05-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-05-07. Poll clerks to check identification and verify eligibility - Poll clerks to request, correct, and update incorrect information contained in the pollbook <u>- Penalty</u>.

- Before delivering a member of an election board delivers a ballot to an individual
  according to section 16.1-13-22, the poll clerks shall request the individual to show
  identification, which includes the individual's residential address and date of birth.
  TheAn approved form of identification may include includes:
  - a. An official form of identification issued by the state;
  - b. An official form of identification issued by a tribal government;
  - c. A form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state; or
  - d. A combination of any of the forms of identification under subdivisions a through c.
- 2. If an individual offering to vote does not have or refuses to show an appropriate form of without identification or identification that does not list the current residential address of the individual, the individual may be allowed to vote without being challenged according to section 16.1-05-06 if the individual provides to the election board the individual's date of birth and if a member of the election board or a poll clerk knows the individual and can personally vouch that the individual is a qualified elector of the precinct administered by the polling place. The individual shall provide the individual's date of birth to the poll clerk entering the voter in the pollbook.
- 3. a. If an individual offering to vote does not meet either of the options set forth in subsection 1 or 2, the election board shall challenge the individual's right to vote and the individual may not vote unless the individual executes a voter's affidavit, as provided in section 16.1-05-06.without identification or identification that does not list the current residential address of the individual, the individual may be allowed to vote if a qualified elector of the jurisdiction covered by the election

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1	appears with the voter and can personally vouch that the individual is a qualified
2	elector of a precinct administered by the polling place. The vouching elector must
3	verify the vouching elector's qualification as an elector by showing to a poll
4	worker an approved form of identification set forth in subsection 1. The secretary
5	of state shall prescribe the form to be used for an elector to vouch for the
6	qualifications of an individual offering to vote. The elector verification form must
7	include:
8	(1) For the vouching elector, the following information:
9	(a) Full name;
10	(b) Complete residential and mailing address, if different:
11	(c) Contact telephone number;
12	(d) Date of birth;
13	(e) State-issued identification, if available;
14	(f) Signature; and
15	(g) A statement indicating the penalty for falsely vouching for another
16	individual's qualification as an elector; and
17	(2) For the individual offering to vote without identification or identification that
18	does not list the current residential address of the individual, the following
19	information:
20	(a) Full name;
21	(b) Complete residential and mailing address, if different;
22	(c) Contact telephone number;
23	(d) Date of birth;
24	(e) State-issued identification that does not list the current residential
25	address of the individual, if available;
26	(f) Signature; and
27	(g) A statement indicating the penalty for the individual making a false
28	statement regarding the individual's qualification as an elector.
29	b. The elector verification form under subdivision a is not an open record, but the
30	designation as such which is associated with the elector in the pollbook is an
31	open record.

- c. In any election, a qualified elector of the state may vouch, on separate elector verification forms, for the qualifications of no more than four individuals residing with the elector in the same household as defined in section 54-64-01 or one individual residing at a separate location within the boundaries of the jurisdiction covered by the election. However, a qualified elector may not vouch for an individual residing at a location within another county.
- administration of the election shall review each elector verification form executed by voters participating in the election. If there is any question about the completed form or the qualifications as an elector of that political subdivision, of the individual vouching for another, or the individual being vouched for, the election official shall forward the forms and any other available information to the state's attorney for further investigation. The state's attorney shall carefully review any information forwarded and initiate an investigation in all cases in which fraud is likely to exist. An elector knowingly vouching for an unqualified elector by the elector.
- 4. a. When verifying an individual's eligibility or when entering the name of an individual into the pollbook, poll clerks shall request, correct, and update any incorrect or incomplete information about an individual required to be included in the pollbook generated from the central voter file.
  - b. If the individual's name is contained in the pollbook generated from the central voter file, the poll clerks shall verify the individual's residential address and mailing address, if different from the individual's residential address.
  - c. If the individual's name is not contained in the pollbook generated from the central voter file but the individual is determined eligible to vote, the poll clerks shall record the individual's name in the pollbook. The poll clerks shall request and obtain any additional information for the individual required to be included in the pollbook.
  - d. An indication must be made in the pollbook for each individual allowed to vote via the execution of an elector verification form.

1	5. Poll clerks shall direct an individual who is attempting to vote in the incorrect precinct
2	to the proper precinct and voting location.
3	6. An individual who fails or refuses to comply with the requirements of this section may
4	not be allowed to vote.
5	SECTION 4. A new section to chapter 16.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6	and enacted as follows:
7	Poll checkers.
8	The district chairman of each political party represented on the election board may appoint
9	up to three poll checkers per polling place. A poll checker may not interfere with the election
10	process or with the members of the election board in the performance of the member's duties. A
11	poll checker may not be a member of the election board. The district chairman shall notify the
12	county auditor of each county contained in the legislative district one day before the day of the
13	election of the name of any individual the district chairman has appointed to serve as a poll
14	checker in the legislative district.
15	SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-10-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16	amended and reenacted as follows:
17	16.1-10-06.1. Paying for certain election-related activities prohibited.
18	No No
19	1. A person may not pay another personany individual for:
20	<ol> <li>Any loss or damage due to attendance at the polls;</li> </ol>
21	2. b. Registering;
22	3. c. The expense of transportation to or from the polls; or
23	4. d. Personal services to be performed on the day of a caucus, primary election, or
24	any election which tend in any way, directly or indirectly, to affect the result of
25	such caucus or election.
26	The provisions of this
27	2. This section dodoes not apply to the hiring of a personan individual whose sole duty it
28	is to act as a challenger duties are to observe the polls and to watch the count of
29	official ballots.
30	SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 58-04-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31	amended and reenacted as follows:

legislative assembly.

#### 58-04-09. Challenge to voter - Duty of judges.

If any personindividual offering to vote at any election or upon any question arising at a township meeting is challenged as unqualified cannot verify the individual's qualifications as an elector using the criteria provided in section 16.1-05-0616.1-01-04 and chapter 16.1-05, the judges shall proceed in the manner in which judges at a general election are required to proceed, adapting the affidavit described in section 16.1-05-06 to the circumstances of the township meeting.

SECTION 7. REPEAL. Section 16.1-05-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

SECTION 8. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - VOTING RESIDENCY 
CONSOLIDATION OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION ELECTIONS. During the 2011-12 interim, the legislative management shall study residency as it relates to voting purposes, qualifications of electors, all forms of absentee voting including in-person absentee, traditional absentee, and voting by mail, and the further consolidation of political subdivision elections with regular statewide elections. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-third