

Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1065

Introduced by

Political Subdivisions Committee

(At the request of the Supreme Court)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 11-07-04, subsection 5 of
2 section 11-10.2-03, subsection 3 of section 11-10.3-02, and sections 11-12-05, 11-16-10,
3 40-02-16, and 44-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to district judge involvement
4 in determining county commissioner terms of office, appointing individuals to fill county
5 commission vacancies, receiving written documents consenting to county reorganization plans,
6 approving state's attorneys expenses, and appointing arbitrators for disputes between a
7 township and a newly organized municipality; and to repeal section 11-16-11 of the North
8 Dakota Century Code, relating to state's attorney submission of a statement of expenses to a
9 district judge.

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

11 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 11-07-04 of the North Dakota Century
12 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13 2. If the county previously elected county commissioners at large and the county has
14 been divided into districts, those elected in districts designated by even numbers
15 constitute one class and those elected in districts designated by odd numbers
16 constitute the other class. If election of commissioners at large is necessary and the
17 county previously was districted, classes of such commissioners must be determined
18 by assigning a number to their respective offices according to the numerical total of
19 the votes cast for them at the general election at which they were elected. The
20 commissioners of one class elected in the first election held following a redistricting
21 pursuant to this chapter hold office for two years and those of the other class hold
22 office for four years. The determination of the two classes must be by lot so that
23 one-half of the commissioners, as nearly as practicable, may be elected biennially. A-
24 ~~district judge serving the county~~An individual mutually agreed upon by the two classes

1 of commissioners shall perform the lot in the presence of all of the newly elected
2 commissioners affected by this subsection within thirty days after the date of the first
3 general election following redistricting or election of commissioners at large, if
4 required, and shall certify in writing the results of such lot to the county auditor within
5 five days after its completion.

6 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 11-10.2-03 of the North Dakota
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 5. A proposed plan may not diminish the future term of office, or redesignate an elected
9 office as appointed, with respect to any person who, on August 1, 1993, holds an
10 elected county office and continues to hold that specific office for future terms on an
11 uninterrupted basis. This subsection does not apply after January 1, 2002, or if the
12 person holding the affected office consents in writing to the proposed plan and
13 ~~submits~~files that written document prior to the scheduled implementation of the plan to
14 ~~awith the district judge serving the judicial district in which~~court for the county is
15 located.

16 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 11-10.3-02 of the North Dakota
17 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18 3. A proposed plan may not diminish the future term of office, or redesignate an elected
19 office as appointed, with respect to any person who, on August 1, 1993, holds an
20 elected county office and continues to hold that specific office for future terms on an
21 uninterrupted basis. This subsection does not apply after January 1, 2002, or if the
22 person holding the affected office consents in writing to the proposed plan, and
23 ~~submits~~files that written document prior to the scheduled implementation of the plan to
24 ~~awith the district judge serving the judicial district in which the~~court for each county is
25 located.

26 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-12-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **11-12-05. Commissioners for new districts appointed.**

29 The members of the board of county commissioners, ~~a district judge serving the county,~~ and
30 the county auditor shall meet immediately after the county has been redistricted and shall

1 appoint one commissioner for each of the new districts. The commissioners hold office until
2 their successors are elected and qualified.

3 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-16-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **11-16-10. Use of state's attorney's contingent fund.**

6 The state's attorney, ~~with the consent and approval of a district judge in and for the state's-~~
7 ~~attorney's county,~~ may incur expenses in securing evidence and investigating criminal cases, so
8 far as is necessary, to the amount annually appropriated by the board of county commissioners
9 to the state's attorney's contingent fund.

10 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-02-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **40-02-16. Arbitration of differences between township and newly organized**
13 **municipality upon division of property and indebtedness.**

14 If the officers of a township and of a municipality which has been organized from territory
15 situated therein cannot agree upon the valuation of any real estate, or of any indivisible property
16 which is held jointly, or upon the just apportionment of the joint indebtedness, the officers of the
17 township or municipality, upon five days' notice of the time and place, may apply to the ~~district-~~
18 ~~court serving the county in which the township or municipality is located~~ director of the office of
19 administrative hearings for arbitration of such differences. Thereupon, the ~~district judge~~ director
20 shall appoint three freeholders of the county, not residents or taxpayers of the municipality or
21 township involved, to act as arbitrators. After being duly sworn to perform the duties imposed
22 upon them, the arbitrators shall view and appraise the property and fix the valuation thereof for
23 the purpose of making the division. If the property to be divided is personal property and no
24 satisfactory arrangement can be made otherwise, it must be sold at public auction to the highest
25 bidder, and the municipality and township may bid at the sale.

26 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 44-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **44-02-05. Vacancy in board of county commissioners - How filled.**

29 When a vacancy occurs in the board of county commissioners, the remaining members of
30 the board, ~~with the district judge selected by the remaining county commissioners,~~ immediately
31 shall appoint some suitable person to fill the vacancy from the district in which the vacancy

1 occurred. If a majority of the officers fails to agree upon a person to fill the vacancy, the county
2 treasurer or, if the county does not have an elected treasurer, another elective county officer
3 must be called in and shall act as an additional member of the board to fill the vacancy. The
4 appointee holds office until the appointee's successor is elected at the next general election that
5 occurs at least sixty days after the vacancy and the successor has qualified.

6 **SECTION 8. REPEAL.** Section 11-16-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.