

Written Testimony To
THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 16, 2021
By Michael Montplaisir, Cass County Finance Director
Cass County Government

REGARDING HOUSE BILL 1447

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to your committee on HB 1447. I am Michael Montplaisir, Cass County Finance Director and I oversee elections for Cass County. House Bill 1447 adds a new form of State Issued Identification that students could use as identification when voting in the county in which they are attending school.

In every General Election there are students who wish to vote in Cass County who are not originally from Cass County. These students may be from another county in North Dakota or from another state. If they are a North Dakota resident who has a North Dakota drivers license or non-drivers identification card, they can go on-line and update their address in order to vote in Cass County if they are currently residing here while attending school. If they have updated their address a few days prior to the election, our e-poll books would have the updated information on Election Day.

I like the added opportunity that would allow students to vote using their institution of higher education identification. However, I hope provisions are made so that the state's Central Data Base would also have the updated address information that would be on the student's identification.

The Central Voter Data Base currently uses the driver's license number as the identifying number and the address provided by the Department of Transportation as their residential address. The Central Voter Data Base not only qualifies voters by having their birthdate, ID number, and residential address, it also streamlines the check in process for the poll workers with the use of e-pollbooks that can scan the barcode on the license.

House Bill 1447 could be a benefit to our student population, and if done right would not adversely affect the administration of elections.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1447.