

HB 1457 Testimony
Political Subdivisions Committee
February 4, 2021

By: Mary Senger, Burleigh County Emergency Manager

Chairman Dockter and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Mary Senger, Emergency Manager for Burleigh County, and I'm recommending an amendment to HB 1457 as introduced.

Local jurisdictions should ratify their local declarations on a more frequent basis to discuss the current status, review necessary changes, and further educate their community. I would offer an amendment to the proposed verbiage "...the governing body of the county or city may reauthorize the order for subsequent periods not exceeding fifteen days each" to "periods not exceeding forty-five days each". Many local jurisdictions convene on a monthly basis and would certainly fall within this time period.

Local declarations are required to access the local jurisdiction's emergency reserve fund to pay for emergency resources for response, and recovery. Recovery period is often longer than response. The immediate threat is stabilized; however, recovery may run simultaneously and require excessive time and resources—a change to normal services provided by local jurisdictions to their communities.

It is not uncommon for a disaster to last more than fifteen days. Locally, I offer previous declarations: flood, drought, severe summer and winter weather, and water emergencies.

Again, I propose amending "fifteen days" to a minimum of forty-five-day periods for local jurisdictions, and I'm available to answer any questions you may have.