

TESTIMONY ON SB2157
HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE
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Dear Chairman Dockter & Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Mary Soucie, State Librarian of North Dakota, and I am giving testimony in support of SB2157 relating to the membership of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council. The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council is the State Library's advisory board and the ten members are appointed by the Governor. The three changes that this bill is addressing have been suggested by the North Dakota State Library and the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council jointly.

The current Private Higher Education Institution Library seat can only be filled by a practicing librarian from three institutions: Jamestown University, Trinity Bible College, and the University of Mary. The current Special Library seat can only be filled by a practicing librarian from ten institutions. We are asking to convert these two seats to At-Large Library seats that can be filled by any librarian in the state which will make it easier for those seats to be filled.

The third seat change is to the Public Higher Education Institution Library seat which will become the Higher Education Institution Library seat. This seat can then be filled by anyone from either a public or private institution which makes it clear that eligible institutions include NDUS institutions, the private institutions previously mentioned, and tribal colleges. These representation modifications will not replace the number of Council Members currently appointed to the board. We believe that this change will benefit the North Dakota Library Community by encouraging a larger pool of applicants for each appointment.

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.

Existing North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC) Seats		# of Seats	Proposed NDLCC Member Seats
State Librarian Ex Officio non-voting member	1	1	State Librarian Ex Officio non-voting member
North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) Ex Officio voting member * The NDLA President, or their designee representing all NDLA members	1	1	North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) Ex Officio voting member * The NDLA President, or their designee representing all NDLA members
Public Higher Education Institution Library	1	1	Higher Education Institution Library * Can be filled by either a public or private institution librarian (Converted from the Public Higher Education Institution Seat)
School Libraries *Practicing librarians representing k-12 schools	1	1	School Libraries * Practicing librarians representing k-12 schools
Public Libraries * Practicing librarians representing public libraries	2	2	Public Libraries * Practicing librarians representing public libraries
Special Populations Libraries (Disabled Representative) * Practicing librarian representing special populations	1	1	Special Populations Libraries * Practicing librarian representing special populations
Citizens at Large * Non-librarians or librarians representing all North Dakota Citizens	2	2	Citizens at Large * Non-librarians or librarians representing all North Dakota Citizens
Special Libraries	1	2	At Large Library * To be filled by any librarian in the state (Converted from the Private Higher Education seat and the Special Library Seat)
Private Higher Education Libraries	1		