

Senate Bill 2308
Government and Veterans Affairs
Rep. Austen Schauer, Chair
Thursday, March 13, 2025
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

Good afternoon, Chair Schauer and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. One priority for our administration is to refocus our efforts in state government to be consumer driven. The legislation before you today sets out to review all boards, commissions, committees, councils, and task forces. The goal of this task force will be to understand which boards can be combined, dissolved, and which ones are essential to the core functions of government.

To give background on the why behind this legislation: Today in state government we have over 150 boards and commissions. Approximately 1,500 individuals make up these boards, with the Governor appointing over two-thirds.

Senate Bill 2308 dissolves 17 boards. In some cases, agencies will absorb or take over the scope of the board's work. Too often government has a tendency to stay in our silos, which in turn leads to duplicative work. Our goal for the task force is to create efficiencies and make sure the mission of these boards and commissions is still relevant today.

This task force will be housed in the Governor's Office. My team will carry out the administrative duties of the task force. Testifying after me will be Reed Johnson to break down the bill section by section and Jacy Schafer to dive further into the reason for the task force and why each board was chosen to be dissolved.

Finally, we are aligning ourselves with the national trend in finding ways to reduce government. Every one of these boards – even the volunteer boards – costs money. It takes enormous staff time and resources to ensure all boards can function. I look forward to continuing to work on this bill with all of you to reduce the footprint of government and save North Dakota taxpayers money.