



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## **Representative Brandy Pyle**

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## **COMMITTEES:**

Appropriations

HB 1142

Good morning, Chair Larson and Committee.

I'd like to take a moment to introduce HB 1142, a straightforward cleanup bill that addresses a provision from last session's HB 1184.

To give some context, when incidents occur where a political subdivision or state is found at fault, there has historically been a cap on the amount that can be paid for damages. This cap, established in 1977, was set at \$250,000 per person for a single incident—an amount that hasn't been updated in nearly five decades. Last session, we took important steps in HB 1284 to address these outdated figures. Specifically, we began gradually increasing the cap, with a planned increase that will eventually raise the ceiling to \$500,000 per person for each incident.

This stair-step approach to increasing the cap over time is similar to how we've handled the per incident cap, like the from \$1 million to \$2 million.

HB 1142 is a simple measure that removes the sunset provision we initially placed in HB 1284. Once the stair-step timeline is completed, the new caps will be in place permanently, and future legislature may need to revisit this, but we can be assured that the outdated 1977 limits will not be brought back.

In short, HB 1142 ensures that as the caps increase, they remain in place for the future, providing clarity and stability for both state agencies and political subdivisions in budgeting for potential incidents.

I stand for any question.

Thank you.

Brandy L. Pyle