



## Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming

### Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1615

March 5, 2025

Madam Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Gaming Alliance and on behalf of the Members of the NDGA, we stand in support for House Bill 1615.

The NDGA has long supported a clarification of the gaming site license process. HB 1615 seeks to place into Century Code an approval process for the charity, the site, and the regulators.

The lease is between two private entities, one charity and one alcohol beverage establishment as defined in Century Code, which we worked on last session. After a lease is secured, the local governing body may approve the site to conduct charitable gaming, which then is forwarded to the Attorney General's office for review.

The local authority may not require a site to enter into a lease with a specific organization as a condition of receiving site approval. The local authority also may not place any condition on how the charitable proceeds may be used. There is a July 24, 1985 Attorney General's Opinion on this particular issue, and has been in force since its issuance.

**Section two** of the bill adjusts the percentage of adjusted net proceeds a charity may use for expenses. If the charity reports \$100,000 or less per quarter, the percentage is 62 percent. If adjusted gross proceeds is above \$100,000, per quarter, the expense limit remains at 60 percent.



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This certainly helps smaller charities that might have difficulty maintaining pace with inflation of items like, wages and material costs to effectively conduct their gaming operations, including the rent increase that was approved last session.

We have worked on this particular section of the gaming regulations for some time, and we believe HB 1615 is a solid solution, and we respectfully request a DO PASS recommendation from your Committee.

Thank you, and I'll try to answer any questions.