

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1473**

Introduced by

Representatives Berg, Bellew, Froelich, Headland

Senators Oehlke, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-15 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to adoption and voter initiative of budgets of cities, counties, and school  
3 districts in biennial cycles; and to provide an effective date.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 57-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Adoption and voter initiative of budgets of city, county, or school district in**  
8 **biennial cycles.** The governing body of a city, county, or school district at the time of adoption  
9 of its final budget for the current taxable year shall adopt a projected budget for the immediately  
10 succeeding taxable year. The governing body shall cause notice of the projected budget to be  
11 published in the official newspaper of the city, county, or school district at least once each week  
12 for two consecutive weeks.

13 1. The projected budget adopted by the governing body is subject to initiative rights of  
14 electors and the governing body shall put the issue before the qualified electors of  
15 the city, county, or school district at a regular or special election if within ninety  
16 days after adoption of the projected budget a petition in writing, signed by qualified  
17 electors of the city, county, or school district equal in number to at least ten percent  
18 of the total vote cast in the city, county, or school district for the office of governor  
19 at the last regular election is presented to that governing body directing an  
20 increase of up to ten percent or decrease of up to five percent in dollars in the  
21 projected budget.

22 2. If a majority of the qualified electors of the city, county, or school district voting on  
23 the question in an initiative election under subsection 1 approves the amount of the  
24 increase or decrease specified in the petition submitted under subsection 1 to

1                   change the projected budget as adopted by the governing body, the governing  
2                   body of the city, county, or school district shall adopt a final budget or levy not  
3                   exceeding the amount approved by the electors.

4                   **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective for taxable years beginning after  
5                   December 31, 2008.