



**Testimony by Brenton Holper
City Administrator/Auditor-- City of Horace**

**House Political Subdivisions Committee
In Opposition to HB 1367**

Chairman Doctker and House Political Subdivision Committee members, I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with written testimony in opposition to HB 1367. My name is Brenton Holper, and I am the City Administrator/Auditor for the City of Horace, one of the fastest growing cities in North Dakota. I realize HB 1367 would have negative impacts on local governments (cities, counties, school districts, and park districts) in regard to the adoption of preliminary budgets. It may also have an unintended impact on many other aspects of the local government entities.

The following summarizes some concerns with HB 1367.

1. With moving the deadline to July 10th, this puts constraints on creating a sound budget, as we would be using less timely and accurate projections to develop the budget. During the last legislative session, changes were made requiring preliminary budgets to be completed a month earlier (September to August). Moving up the due date another month with HB 1367 and placing additional obstacles essentially has an impact even greater by forcing the budgeting process to begin in February to meet deadlines.
2. Having the budget subject to a referral of 10% of the population voting in the last office for the governor election would be an extremely low in many cities throughout North Dakota. If a referral was initiated, this would put a greater burden on cities and counties in order to conduct a special election. This would result in additional of costs onto taxpayers for the election and the staff time involved to properly conduct the special election on both the city and county levels.

3. This would force preliminary budgets to essentially be completed at the time municipal elections occur. Therefore forcing incoming new governing bodies to a budget that they have little input or no input on.

I respectfully urge you to give a **Do Not Pass** recommendation due to the additional burden that this would place on local governments. Thank you for your consideration.