

TESTIMONY
SENATE BILL 2244
HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE JASON DOCKTER- CHAIRMAN
FEBRUARY 12, 2021 9:00 A.M.

Chairman Dockter and other members of the committee, my name is Darin Neugebauer and I am the owner of the Credit Bureau of Bismarck, Inc. I am here to ask for a reconsideration of the aforementioned bill because of the potential detrimental effect it may have on the State as it is currently written.

This would have a grievous impact on the banking, collection, and rental industries among any other that would involve a civil matter. If John Doe was wronged and wanted to go to small claims court, this substantial increase may make the difference for him as to whether or not he would pursue the matter.

If costs for a small business were to double, overnight, it would make it very difficult to continue doing business. It is similar to the pandemic we've been going through. Many businesses were forced to close as their customer base was lost overnight.

Is this what we wish to do, shrink the tax base of the state?

I am in agreement costs have risen and the Sheriffs of North Dakota may need an increase in those fees if able to be justified by each county. According to the Bismarck Tribune there is at least one county which may not need this.

Is it right to subsidize those who don't need it?

I wish to propose the following:

- Under 11-15-07, increase the civil process from \$20.00 to \$30.00. A 50% increase.
- Under 11-15-07, increase the execution fee from \$40.00 to \$50.00. A 20% increase.
- Under 11-15-08, amend the increase from 1 percent to 1.5 percent. A fifty percent increase.

I believe these increases would be palatable to all involved and am open to any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.