

House Bill 1060

Presented by: Patrick Fahn, Director of Public Utilities
Public Service Commission

Before: Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
The Honorable Randy Burckhard, Chairman

Date: February 19, 2021

TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Patrick Fahn, Director of Public Utilities. I am here to testify on behalf of HB 1060, which provides an amendment to North Dakota Century Code section 49-02-08.

The amendment provides that the Commission shall either test, request a public utility to test, or use a third-party to test gas and electric meters of public utilities.

The Commission previously maintained resources and equipment to conduct tests of public utility meters but due difficulty in staffing an electrical engineer for a period, the Commission promulgated rules to move towards an oversight role in meter testing. Currently, the Commission does not have the necessary equipment to conduct the testing.

The Commission ensures the accuracy of gas and electric meters by requiring tests be conducted by the utility periodically, upon request of the customer, and upon request of a customer with a commission representative

present. Public utilities are required to maintain records of the tests and provide annual reporting to the Commission for an agency review.¹

The amendments in HB 1060 better reflect the Commission's current practice employed in protecting customers and ensuring the accuracy of public utility electric and gas meters.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to present this information. I will be happy to answer any questions.

¹ N.D. Admin. Code chapters 69-09-01 and 69-09-02.