

House Industry, Business & Labor Committee

Testimony in Favor of House Bill 1387

Submitted by Michael McMenemy

Proprietor of McMenemy's Tavern, Grand Forks

Thank you for your consideration of a Do Pass on HB 1387, increasing the rent amount paid to bars by charitable organizations for space to be used for electronic pull tabs. As a family owned liquor establishment in the community of Grand Forks for over 50 years, I believe a reasonable increase is warranted for several reasons:

- When electronic pull tabs were originally introduced in 2018 charities did not pay rent for the first year of operation, essentially earning a "free" year of rent.
- Bars assume all liability of customers within their establishments, including on all property. While customers may only be gambling at the location, liability solely falls on the shoulders of the bar owner.
- All building expenses are the responsibility of the bar owner. Heating, cooling, electric, water, sewage, insurance, internet, taxes, cleaning, snow removal, parking lot maintenance, and garbage collection expenses are all paid for by the business owner.
- Bar owners could use the space allotted for charitable gaming for other purposes that could be more profitable, such as kitchen space or additional bar seating. While bar owners support and want to sponsor charitable gaming, the scales are clearly tipped more favorably for the charitable organizations.

While the bill in current form at \$200 rent/machine is considerably lower than I would like to see, it is a good starting point.

Thank you for your consideration of a Do Pass on HB 1387.