

MICHAEL C. HOWE
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEBSITE sos.nd.gov



PHONE (701) 328-2900
E-MAIL sos@nd.gov

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE KLEMIN, CHAIRMAN

HOUSE BILL NO. 1230
JANUARY 16, 2023

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY

MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE

The Office of Secretary of State respectfully submits neutral written testimony on HB 1230. This bill seeks to create fines for measure committees and committee members who willfully submit invalid petitions.

This office believes that anyone who seeks to falsify petitions should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, however, our role is simply to administer the process related to petitions and the subsequent placement of approved measures onto the ballot. Any penalties or fines associated with falsification are at the discretion of the legislature and those who would pursue legal action for such activities.

The language of this bill does not change our administration process.