

Senate Finance and Taxation
Chair Committee Members

HB 1266 Support With Amendment Correction

The Downtown Business Association of Bismarck represents over 200 members with 9,000 employees in North Dakota's second largest employment district. Our Board of Directors and members encourage your support of HB 1266. This bill would allow Renaissance Zones that have expired to be brought back, as they had left, through a state approved renewal process.

Communities like Bismarck, Watford City, Carrington and others have expired zones, and a change in language to state law would allow these communities and future communities to go through the renewal process to bring back an expired zone.

Bismarck is currently one of just a handful of ND Communities that is not allowed to reinstate their zone due to a lack of process in state law. This simple bill adds language to the Renaissance Zone Program guidelines on the process of bringing back an expired zone.

In 2022 the City of Bismarck, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District and Bismarck School Board all voted unanimously to support renewal of Bismarck's zone. Burleigh County decided not to hold a vote on the request.

This amendment should have replaced the original f (2), not be added in addition to, as they are conflicting.

Suggested amendment to Section 1, 40-63-03.

1.
f 2)

~~(2) If a renaissance zone designated under this chapter expires, a city may reapply for a subsequent renaissance zone in the same manner an original renaissance zone is formed under this section.~~

(2) (3) If a renaissance zone designated under this chapter expires, a city may reapply for renewal of the formerly expired renaissance zone in the current manner a renewal extension is granted by state law.

We encourage your support of HB1266 with the above amendment,

Sincerely,



Kate Herzog, COO
Chief Operating Officer
Downtown Business Association of Bismarck

President
Downtown Bismarck Community Foundation

