



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:
Appropriations

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Relating to election of city commissioners, city council members, and park district commissioners

Good morning, Chair Roers and State and Local Government Committee. For the record, I am Brandy Pyle, State Representative from District 22. I am here to introduce HB 1293. This is a bill to address a timing issue when newly elected officials take office and when organization meetings are required to be held.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the canvassing board meeting to canvas the votes was moved a week later. Per century code 16.1-15-17 the County canvassing board shall meet on the thirteenth day following each election. As a result, under the current law, city and park district officials took office one day after votes were canvassed and vote counts became final. There are instances where city elected officials and park district officials have tie vote counts or the number of votes that an individual wins by is so small it is within the thresholds of requiring the votes to be recounted. As such, only have one day to work out these issues did not work well.

To address the problem, the bill would move the day that city elected officials and elected park officials take office to July 1 (one-week later) and allow cities and park districts to organize at their first meeting in July, in lieu of requiring them to hold a separate meeting to organize.

Thank you for the consideration of HB 1293. I stand for questions but know there are others here to testify too.