

HB 1508

I am the City Auditor for the City of Hillsboro and I take a neutral position on this bill. I see both the good and the bad as identified below.

When I first started in this position back in 2020, we were in the beginning of a two year audit. Mr. Erickson and the State Auditor's office were very helpful and patient with us as we were trying to recreate 2 years of financials. If it was not for the help, knowledge, and teachings of Mr. Erickson and his team I am not sure I would have been able to fix the mess that was left by the Auditor before me.

I have read through other testimony and done some research on this bill. I am in opposition of the Governor being able to appoint a State Auditor. I feel it should be up to the people of the State of ND to choose or vote who they want in that position. Allowing the people of ND to choose, gives the ability for more transparency in our government and adds that layer of protection from corruption, wrongdoing, misuse of fund and embezzlement. Many citizens already have trust issues with the Government. Allowing the Governor to appoint the person who will oversee Auditing Finances, especially those of the State, will cause more mistrust in an already contentious time between Government and the people.

I am in Favor of there being a cap on Audit fees. As I understand the need to charge a fee for staffing good quality employees, some of these Audits can be long and financially taxing to smaller cities and financial institutions.

Thank you for you time.