

Senate Bill 2124 Testimony
Senator Kyle Davison
January 12th, 2023

Good afternoon, I'm Senator Kyle Davison from District 41 representing south Fargo. I am the sponsor of SB 2124 which increases the state per diem for meals from \$35 per day to \$42 per day. The last time the legislature increased the per diem was in 2013. I believe with inflation it's time to consider an increase.

This bill provides approximately a 20 percent increase which I believe is reasonable. In the process of getting co-sponsors, it was suggested to me to build in an automatic increase into the bill, such as how we calculate our current state hotel rate (Federal \$98 less 10%).

The current federal per diem in North Dakota for meals is \$59 per day. If we subtract 10 percent off that number our rate would be around \$53 per day. I thought that was too significant of an increase, but it's something for this committee to consider in your deliberations.

There isn't a fiscal note on this bill because agencies would take these increases out of their current operating expenses. As an appropriator, we've already seen most agencies requesting inflationary increases in their operating budgeting line to address increases in travel and meals.