

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the State and Local Government Committee. For the record, my name is Bob Paulson, and I am a State Senator from District 3 in Minot.

SB 2280 is a simple bill. It simply seeks to identify on a primary ballot, whether a candidate for office was placed on the ballot as a result of being endorsed by a political party or by petition.

Century code provides two methods to attain ballot access, and they are: a party endorsement or by petition (gathering signatures to gain access).

The purpose of the bill is to ensure we have an electorate that is as informed as possible. When both methods are utilized and multiple candidates appear on the primary ballot representing the same party there is no ballot distinction between the party-endorsed candidate and the candidate(s) who petitioned to appear on the ballot under the party heading of his or her choice. This can result in confusion for the voter.

I see no compelling reason why we shouldn't provide the voter with that information. This indication does not show favor to one candidate over the other, it merely identifies which candidate was endorsed by the party under whose heading they appear, and which candidate took to the streets and gathered the requisite signatures to compete for the seat he or she aspires to win. In the end, the voter deserves to know which is which.

Madam Chair, that is the bill and I would respectfully request a Do Pass, and I will stand for any questions.