

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2180

Introduced by

Senators Paulson, Luick, Weston

Representatives Louser, D. Ruby, D. Johnston

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the opportunity to provide public comment at a meeting of a public
3 entity.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Public comment - Regular meetings of political subdivisions.**

- 8 1. At least one-fourth of the publicly noticed regular meetings of a political subdivision
9 held per year must include an opportunity for an individual in attendance to provide
10 public comment.
- 11 2. An individual providing comment at a meeting shall provide to the political subdivision
12 in writing the individual's name and address.
- 13 3. A political subdivision may:
- 14 a. Limit a public comment by time per speaker, total time for public comment, or
15 both.
- 16 b. Develop a policy regarding public comment rules for regular meetings. The policy
17 may provide a public comment:
- 18 (1) Must be pertinent to the political subdivision.
- 19 (2) May not interfere with the orderly conduct of the regular meeting.
- 20 (3) May not be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful.
- 21 (4) May be prohibited if an alternative procedure exists to bring that particular
22 type of public comment before the political subdivision, the public comment

- 1 includes confidential or exempt information, or the public comment is
- 2 otherwise prohibited by law.