

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 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~~ a public entity.**

8 1. ~~At least one-fourth of the publicly noticed~~ Every regular ~~meetings~~ meeting of a ~~political-~~
9 ~~subdivision held per year~~ governing body of a city, county, township, school district,
10 ~~park district, or water resource district~~ must include an opportunity for an individual ~~in-~~
11 ~~attendance~~ to provide public comment.

12 2. An individual providing comment at a meeting shall provide to the ~~political-~~
13 ~~subdivision~~ governing body in writing the individual's name and address. ~~The~~
14 ~~individual's address is an exempt record as defined in subsection 5 of section~~
15 ~~44-04-17.1.~~

16 3. ~~A political subdivision may~~ governing body of a city, county, township, school district,
17 ~~park district, or water resource district:~~

18 a. ~~Limit~~ May limit a public comment by time per speaker, total time for public
19 ~~comment, or both.~~

- 1 | b. ~~Develop~~ Shall develop a policy regarding public comment rules for regular
- 2 | meetings. The policy may provide a public comment:
- 3 | (1) Must be pertinent to the ~~political subdivision~~ public entity.
- 4 | (2) May not interfere with the orderly conduct of the regular meeting.
- 5 | (3) May not be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful.
- 6 | (4) May be prohibited if an alternative procedure exists to bring that particular
- 7 | type of public comment before the ~~political subdivision~~ public entity, the
- 8 | public comment includes confidential or exempt information, or the public
- 9 | comment is otherwise prohibited by law.