

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with House Amendments**

**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 a public entity.**

- 8 1. Every regular meeting of a governing body of a city, county, township, school district,  
9 park district, or water resource district must include an opportunity for an individual to  
10 provide public comment.
- 11 2. An individual providing comment at a meeting shall provide to the governing body in  
12 writing the individual's name and address. The individual's address is an exempt  
13 record as defined in subsection 5 of section 44-04-17.1.
- 14 3. A governing body of a city, county, township, school district, park district, or water  
15 resource district:
- 16 a. May limit a public comment by time per speaker, total time for public comment, or  
17 both.
- 18 b. Shall develop a policy regarding public comment rules for regular meetings. The  
19 policy may provide a public comment:
- 20 (1) Must be pertinent to the public entity.
- 21 (2) May not interfere with the orderly conduct of the regular meeting.
- 22 (3) May not be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful.

- 1                   (4) May be prohibited if an alternative procedure exists to bring that particular
- 2                   type of public comment before the public entity, the public comment includes
- 3                   confidential or exempt information, or the public comment is otherwise
- 4                   prohibited by law.