25.0269.03000

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

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

Public comment - Regular meetings of a public entity.

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

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