

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1158  
(Representatives Stemen, Berg, Dockter, Hagert, Louser, Pyle)  
(Senators Klein, Meyer, Roers)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the exempt status of records related to petitions in possession of the secretary of state.

**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:

**Secretary of state - Petition records - Exempt.**

A record received by the secretary of state, which is related to a request for approval of a petition to initiate or refer a measure, is an exempt record until the secretary of state has passed upon the sufficiency of the petition under section 16.1-01-10, or thirty-five days have passed since the secretary of state received the record, whichever occurs first.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1158.

House Vote:      Yeas 90              Nays 0              Absent 4

Senate Vote:    Yeas 45              Nays 1              Absent 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State