

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

Introduced by

Representative Koppelman

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 16.1-03 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the issuance of a certificate of endorsement by a district party; and to  
3 amend and reenact sections 16.1-11-06 and 16.1-11-10 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to certificates of endorsement and the secretary of state's duty to place a candidate's  
5 name on a primary election ballot.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 16.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
8 and enacted as follows:

#### 9 **District endorsements - Complaint and investigation procedure.**

- 10 1. Any political party of a district organization authorized to endorse a candidate under  
11 section 16.1-03-21 may hold an endorsing caucus to place a candidate on the primary  
12 election ballot. The district organization shall conduct the caucus according to its  
13 internal rules and bylaws.
- 14 2. After completion of the endorsing caucus, the district chairman shall ~~issue~~sign a  
15 certificate of endorsement ~~to the endorsed candidate, and the candidate shall file and~~  
16 ~~forward~~ the certificate of endorsement ~~as provided under section 16.1-11-06 to the~~  
17 state committee of the party making the endorsement.
- 18 3. Upon receiving the certificate of endorsement, the ~~state party chairman may not sign~~  
19 ~~and forward the certificate of endorsement to the~~ secretary of state ~~may not place the~~

1 ~~endorsed candidate~~for placement on the primary election ballot under section  
2 16.1-11-10 for at least seven days following the receipt of the certificate.

3 4. Any individual claiming the endorsing caucus was not conducted in the manner  
4 prescribed under subsection 1 may file a complaint with the ~~secretary of state~~  
5 ~~within inquiry committee~~. The individual shall file the complaint within seven days of the  
6 ~~issuance of the state committee receiving the~~ certificate of endorsement. Upon receipt  
7 of a complaint, the ~~secretary of state~~inquiry committee shall review the complaint. If  
8 the ~~secretary of state~~inquiry committee determines the complaint is without merit, the  
9 ~~secretary of state~~inquiry committee shall dismiss the complaint and the state party  
10 chairman shall sign the certificate of endorsement. Upon signing the certificate of  
11 endorsement, the state party chairman shall forward the certificate of endorsement to  
12 the secretary of state to place the endorsed candidate's name ~~in~~on the primary  
13 election ballot.

14 5. If the ~~secretary of state~~inquiry committee reasonably believes the endorsing caucus  
15 violated the applicable ~~district~~ organization's internal rules, bylaws, or any provision of  
16 law, the ~~secretary of state~~inquiry committee shall ~~forward the complaint to the attorney~~  
17 ~~general to~~ investigate the complaint and notify the secretary of state of the  
18 ~~investigation~~. If the ~~secretary of state forwards~~inquiry committee investigates the  
19 complaint ~~to the attorney general~~, the secretary of state may not place the candidate's  
20 name on the ballot until the investigation is complete. The ~~attorney general~~inquiry  
21 committee shall complete the investigation within seven days of receiving a complaint  
22 ~~from the secretary of state~~.

23 5.6. Upon completing the investigation under subsection 45, the ~~attorney general~~inquiry  
24 committee shall issue a written determination outlining the ~~attorney general's~~ findings  
25 of the investigation. ~~If~~Following the investigation, if the ~~attorney general~~inquiry  
26 committee determines the district organization complied with the internal rules, bylaws,  
27 or applicable state law relating to the endorsing caucus, the ~~attorney general~~state  
28 party chairman shall ~~notify~~sign the certificate of endorsement and forward the signed  
29 certificate to the the secretary of state ~~that the certificate of endorsement is valid~~for  
30 placement on the primary election ballot. If the ~~attorney general~~inquiry committee  
31 determines the district organization failed to comply with the internal rules, bylaws, or

1 applicable state law relating to the endorsing caucus, the ~~attorney general inquiry~~  
2 ~~committee~~ shall notify the ~~district organization and the~~ secretary of state the certificate  
3 of endorsement is void and the ~~district organization shall hold the~~ district caucus ~~must~~  
4 ~~be held~~ at a later date.

5 7. If the subsequent caucus cannot be held before any applicable candidate filing  
6 deadlines, any candidate seeking placement on a primary election ballot may circulate  
7 a nominating petition as described under section 16.1-11-06. If a valid certificate of  
8 endorsement issued under this section is not filed with the secretary of state by four  
9 p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before any primary election, the certificate is void.

10 8. As used in this section, "inquiry committee" means the state committee of the party  
11 making an endorsement in a legislative race or a committee created under the state  
12 committee's bylaws to receive and investigate complaints filed under this section.

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-11-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **16.1-11-06. State candidate's petition or political party certificate of endorsement**  
16 **required to get name on ballot - Contents - Filing.**

17 1. Every candidate for United States senator, United States representative, a state office,  
18 including the office of state senator or state representative, and judges of the supreme  
19 and district courts shall present to the secretary of state, between the first date  
20 candidates may begin circulating nominating petitions according to this chapter and  
21 before four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before any primary election, either:

22 a. The certificate of endorsement signed by the ~~state or district~~ appropriate chairman  
23 of any legally recognized political party containing the candidate's name,  
24 post-office address, nongovernment issued electronic mail address, and  
25 telephone number, the title of the office to which the candidate aspires, and the  
26 party which the candidate represents; or

27 b. ~~The~~ Subject to subsection 4, the nominating petition containing the following:

28 (1) The candidate's name, post-office address, nongovernment issued  
29 electronic mail address, and telephone number, and the title of the office to  
30 which the candidate aspires, the appropriate district judgeship number if

- 1 applicable, and whether the petition is intended for nomination for an  
2 unexpired term of office if applicable.
- 3 (2) The name of the party the candidate represents if the petition is for an office  
4 under party designation.
- 5 (3) The signatures and printed names of qualified electors, the number of which  
6 must be determined as follows:
- 7 (a) If the office is under party designation, the signatures of three percent  
8 of the total vote cast for the candidates of the party with which the  
9 candidate affiliates for the same position at the last general election.  
10 However, no more than three hundred signatures may be required.
- 11 (b) If there was no candidate of a party for a position at the preceding  
12 general election, at least three hundred signatures.
- 13 (c) If the office is under the no-party designation, at least three hundred  
14 signatures.
- 15 (d) If the office is a legislative office, the signatures of at least one percent  
16 of the total resident population of the legislative district as determined  
17 by the most recent federal decennial census.
- 18 (4) The mailing address and the date of signing for each signer.
- 19 2. If the petition or certificate of endorsement is for the office of governor and lieutenant  
20 governor, the petition or certificate must contain the names and other information  
21 required of candidates for both offices.
- 22 3. A petition or certificate of endorsement may be filed electronically, through the mail, or  
23 by personal delivery. However, the petition or certificate must be complete and in the  
24 possession of the secretary of state before four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before the  
25 primary election.
- 26 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a political party issues certificates of  
27 endorsement under this chapter, no other candidate seeking the same office may  
28 appear on the primary election ballot as a representative of the same party issuing the  
29 certificates of endorsement. If a candidate submits a nominating petition under a party  
30 affiliation and that party has issued a certificate of endorsement for the same office the



1 \_\_\_\_\_; that I am a candidate for nomination to the office of \_\_\_\_\_  
2 to be chosen at the primary election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and I request  
3 that my name be printed upon the primary election ballot as provided by law, as a  
4 candidate of the \_\_\_\_\_ party for said office. I am requesting that my name be  
5 listed on the ballot as I have identified my ballot name below. I understand that nicknames  
6 are allowed as part of my ballot name, but titles and campaign slogans are not permissible.  
7 I have reviewed the requirements to hold office and I certify that I am qualified to serve if  
8 elected.

9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 Ballot name requested

11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 Candidate's signature

13 Subscribed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
14 \_\_\_\_\_

15 Notary Public  
16 NOTARY SEAL My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_