



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## Representative Ben Koppelman

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**COMMITTEES:**  
Industry, Business and Labor  
Transportation

1/17/24

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce HB1029 on behalf of the interim Government Services committee. This bill is brought to you seeking clarification of the role of the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission (CGPC) and to create a new standing legislative committee with the purpose of legislative oversight of new state-owned buildings as well as major renovation of both state owned and leased space. I served as chairman of this committee.

During the interim, the committee was assigned a study by Legislative Management to

"Study the feasibility and desirability of creating a statutory committee to assist in the design and oversight of the remodel or construction of state-owned buildings, including consideration of who should serve on such a committee, the authority the committee should exercise over projects, and which projects should be subject to the jurisdiction of the committee".

The committee concluded its work on this study by passing the bill draft that you see in front of you. The bill also includes some requested clarifications suggested by the CGPC, the language of which was later approved by the commission at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.

Section 1 of the bill relates to the duties of the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission. The CGPC directs what happens on the capitol grounds to ensure quality, continuity, durability, style, and efficiency. The bill clarifies where the CGPC will weigh in and what needs the commission's approval.

Section 2 of the bill creates a new standing legislative committee, which unlike an interim committee, would meet both during the interim and occasionally during legislative session. This committee is made up of 7 members from the house and 6 members from the senate, with one of those members from each chamber being from the

minority faction. The committee will meet on a quarterly basis. The committee shall study and review construction projects impacting facilities both owned and leased by the state, excluding those under the control of the board of higher education. With the size of our state government and the sprawl of the square footage that we occupy across the state, it is important that we find the best efficiencies in the use of that space and identify opportunities to consolidate where possible. Obviously when the state is building a new building, it is a long-term commitment. We need to ensure we do it right with that in mind. On the same note, when we do major renovations to a building we own or possibly to rental space, we want to ensure that there is long term planning involved and that the location will make sense for years to come.

During the study, we heard from John Boyle regarding space usage as well as the importance of oversight for these projects. It was pointed out how this committee could compliment the addition to OMB of 3 new positions that will assist in project management, reviewing of leases, and construction review. I think that due to the relatively small number of interim committee meetings and the fact that this study directive got added part way through the interim, that there are going to be some amendments needed to flesh this bill out as well as clarify the threshold that is appropriate for review so that the committee is not required to review small projects. Since he took over John Boyle's role with OMB, I have worked closely with Brandon Solberg to get recommendations on additions and clarifications that could be added to this bill to better define the role of this committee, the collaboration with OMB, and the committee's relationship to the CGPC. I would request that the committee allow us some time to hammer out some amendments prior to taking action on this bill.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for questions.