

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
February 6, 2025
By: Laurie Good, LaMoure County Recorder

RE: OPPOSITION for HB 1306

Good morning, Chairman Schauer and Committee Members.

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony in opposition for HB 1306. My name is Laurie Good, LaMoure County Recorder.

Coming from a smaller county office the change in this code being brought forth is alarming. As it currently stands the rate allowed now is out of line with what truly is affordable for counties. The code says we must search for the first hour for free and then have the ability to charge \$25.00 per hour after. Customers who leave for the winter and in their spare time are working on genealogy searches will be more than happy to pay for a few days of work and not have to drive or fly to ND to search on their own. They are a citizen of the state but what kind of proof do they have to give? How can an entity recoup the lost hours in those potential searches.

This bill wants to change the existing 1 hour to 40 hours FREE per requestor, so a family of 10 gets 400 hours free? There is just no possible way our office could handle this type of request.

I do agree our records are open and should be made available for searching but this change as written will cripple most political subdivision offices in the State of North Dakota. I know it will my office for sure.

For these reasons I urge you to please give HB 1306 a DO NOT PASS recommendation. I would greatly appreciate your support.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this bill.

Sincerely,

Laurie Good
LaMoure County Recorder
701-883-6070
lgood@nd.gov