



**NORTH DAKOTA
PLANNING ASSOCIATION**
Serving North Dakota since 1973

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January 27, 2025
Committee Hearing: HB1141
Industry, Business and Labor

Representative Warrey and Committee Members,

The North Dakota Planning Association respectfully requests a DO NOT PASS recommendation on House Bill 1141.

Mission

The mission statement describes NDPA's intentions and demonstrates how the organization is striving to fulfill its vision:

We educate individuals, legislators, and planning professionals on the importance of planning and contemporary planning best practices, partner with those with a passion toward community-based efforts in planning and related fields, and advocate for the future success of communities through good policy and plan-making.

Vision

The vision statement summarizes the role and influence the NDPA will have in North Dakota as it strives to achieve its goals.

To be the primary partnership for planning-related information and activities within the State of North Dakota which connects and supports a growing planning profession that is well respected in the state and fosters an understanding amid the general public on the planning issues within the state.

Value

The value statement reflects the values of the NDPA. The profession relies on the ethical principles espoused in the AICP Code of Ethics.

Working together according to the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct to effect good planning practice for all people of North Dakota.

The North Dakota Planning Association provides a place for an exchange of ideas, educational opportunities, legislative information, developing training opportunities and tackling the issues of the 21st century.

Our membership is diverse, with both

private planners working for consulting firms and public planners working for various jurisdictions throughout the state. We also have members who are interested individuals who care about good planning, as well as members of planning and zoning boards and city/county commissions. We aim to provide education AND advocate for best planning practices across the state. We cannot do one without the other, and we cannot do either without membership. Professional memberships are expensive, and typically are paid for by an individual's employer. That is the case for the majority of our membership.

House Bill 1141 would effectively require individuals to pay for their own memberships to our professional organization as well as our national accrediting organization, given that both have taken stances on several ballot measures in the last ten years. These require hefty fees for membership, and not being a member, particularly of our national organization, is not an option in order to maintain individual accreditation status. This requires individuals to maintain their own professional standards, and dismisses the overall positive effect that their accreditation and continuing education has on their employers- the cities and counties of North Dakota. This reduces planning knowledge, understanding of best practices, and ability to advocate for good planning. The only entities that lose in this situation are government entities, who will find themselves without professional, certified planners on staff.

Again, we respectfully request a DO NOT PASS decision on HB1141.

Thank you,

North Dakota Planning Association Board

Rachel Laqua, President