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COMMITTEES:
Finance and Tax
Government and Veterans Affairs

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Mr. Chairman Longmuir and Members of the Political Subdivisions committee,

Vicky Steiner, District 37, Dickinson. House Bill 1355 simply adds a sentence of information on the topic of an upcoming public rule change hearing that's being printed in our newspapers. This will give more transparency to the rule making process and increase public understanding and involvement.

As you know, rules have the effect of law. In Administrative Rules, the committee can vote "no" on a rule but they cannot amend or create a rule.

As members of the standing Administrative Rules committee, we hear the agency and board testimony about the cost of advertising. It usually costs about $2,000 and they will usually report to the committee, perhaps 80% of the time, that no one attended the hearing. The public might not be engaged if the hearing notice only includes the ND Century code statute number for the rule change. Few of us have state law books in our homes to look up a statute to see which statute might be changed. In the notice, there is no information about why the hearing is being held. This bill requires a simple sentence. This bill also allows for the agency to add a digital scan for more information. The sentence is required, and the digital scan is optional.

The Rules committee does an oversight job to see that the agency hasn't created a rule outside of the intent of the legislative statutes.

The explanation sentence would be drafted by the agency or board. It should give the public more information about the hearing so they might be able to see what changes are coming. It's simply a sentence of the "essence" of the hearing. It's a simple addition that should be an improvement for the public.

Thank you. I stand for questions.