



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:
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Political Subdivisions

TESTIMONY OF REP. LAWRENCE R. KLEMIN HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE HOUSE BILL NO. 1399 JANUARY 31, 2025

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee. I am Lawrence R. Klemin, Representative for District 47 in Bismarck. I am here to testify in support of House Bill No. 1399. This bill relates to the compensation, mileage and travel expenses for prosecution witnesses in the counties.

The Attorney General maintains a fund to pay for prosecution witness expenses. The law currently sets the amount for these expenses at \$25,000 per county per biennium. Counties pay the expenses and then request reimbursement from the Attorney General. The bill proposes to increase that amount to \$30,000 per county. There is a fiscal note prepared by the Office of the Attorney General that shows the total amount at \$265,000 per biennium with the increase to \$5,000 per county.

The amount that a county spends on prosecution witness expenses varies from county to county. Some counties with larger populations spend more than the allocated amount than counties with smaller populations. The bill allows a county that needs more money for these expenses to enter into an agreement with another county to obtain its uncommitted funds, subject to the approval of the Attorney General.

Roza Larson, State's Attorney for Ward County, is available to tell you more about the county prosecution witness expenses and how the reimbursement process works.

I urge you to recommend "do pass" on House Bill No. 1399.

Rep. Lawrence R. Klemin
District 47, Bismarck