



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

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March 10, 2025

Committee Hearing: **SB2069**

Political Subdivisions

Representative Longmuir and Committee Members,

The North Dakota Planning Association respectfully requests a PASS recommendation on Senate Bill 2069 relating to Publication Requirements.

Allowing political subdivisions to post notices in a statewide database, in addition to newspapers, is a positive step in the direction of modernizing public notice requirements. One of the primary roles of professional planners in North Dakota is to thoroughly involve the public in community planning and development activities. We use a variety of methods to communicate, and statutory requirements should be updated to align with how people receive information in today's world.

Similar to state agencies, our local government members have experienced errors in newspaper publication. Such errors have occurred even since this legislation was introduced at the beginning of 2025. A missed or delayed notice can legally invalidate scheduled hearings, resulting in project delays and potential for public confusion. Senate Bill 2069 is a practical solution to this immediate problem.

Over time, North Dakota citizens will become more familiar with this source and trust its content. The public would have access to tools that are not currently available for legal notices, such as the ability to subscribe to an email alert for public meetings of interest. As this website is enhanced in the future, North Dakotans will have an even greater ability to find the information they seek.

A central online database will help political subdivisions across the state. In rural communities, the official newspaper may only be published monthly with notices due well in advance of publication dates. This slows down the development entitlement process. Larger communities publish many advertisements at significant taxpayer expense – over \$100,000 per year for some cities. As such, publication requirements amount to an unfunded mandate.

We support statewide mandatory notice requirements, and many of our communities have their own standards that go above and beyond. Passage of SB2069 is a step in the right direction of collaboration between state agencies and political subdivisions to meet this critical need.

Thank you,

North Dakota Planning Association Board  
Rachel Laqua, President