



March 14, 2025
House Political Subdivisions
SB 2069
Representative Donald Longmuir, Chair

For the record, my name is Kory Peterson. I am appearing before you today on behalf of the North Dakota League of Cities, in support of SB 2069. Prior to working with the North Dakota League of Cities, I was the Mayor of Horace for 8 years, from June 2016 to July 2024.

The League of Cities is in favor of allowing the option to send a copy of any legal notices to the Secretary of States office to act as a back stop in case a legal notice doesn't get published in a timely manner.

There was another recent case where the North Dakota Public Service Commission had to postpone a hearing for a proposed power line in northwest North Dakota. The hearing had to be postponed because a public notice failed to run in one of the official county newspapers.

This is a concern for cities that need to publish legal notices in the paper of record, especially when it comes to planning and zoning notices. These notices are timed carefully to coincide with projects that will need to be vetted through a public hearing. Having to postpone these meetings because of a missed publication leads to confusion with the public and added expense to the city for the rescheduling of the event. This also will cause the petitioner to Planning and Zoning to have to reschedule their time and efforts, which can add extra costs.

We understand that the frequency of missing published legal notice is low, but it does happen. This legislation allows a political sub to send the legal notices to the Secretary of State's website to cover itself if a missing published legal notice happens.

The political subs are NOT compelled to do this as of the last amendments and we feel this is a reasonable compromise. We feel this change will accomplish the original intent of the presented bill.

Cities are already facing the possibility of caps to their revenue streams because of pending legislation before the legislators this session. This legislation will help by not having to reschedule public hearings because of a missed publication.

The League recommends a Do Pass on SB 2069.

Thank you.

Kory Peterson