



# North Dakota Senate

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## Senator Mike Wobbema

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## COMMITTEES:

Education  
Workforce Development (Chair)

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Chairman Larson, and members of the Judiciary Committee, good afternoon. I am Senator Mike Wobbema, and I represent District 24. SB 2240 is an updated version of a bill I put forward last session. Its purpose is to provide for some adjustment in how our political subs deal with real property that has been neglected, having been allowed by the property owner to take on a look that doesn't match the image that the political sub desires to project for their communities. What is not in question is the political subs right to determine what image they desire to project, and their right to affect a cleanup. What is in question is how they go about doing that.

SB 2240 places a requirement upon the political subs to adequately notify the property owner that they desire action to be taken in cleaning up the real property in question. It ensures that notification is recognized by the property owner with a signed acknowledgement. We need to ensure that more is done than just attaching a notice on the door of the property owner, assuming that they will see it in a timely manner and act on it. I have been made aware of instances where property owners found their personal property removed without their awareness or consent, or little to no reasonable time to respond. In one instance the property owner left for vacation to come back and find a notice stuck to his front door, and only two days to address the issue. He had obtained a truck and a trailer to conduct the cleanup and was waiting for the manpower to show up when the city came with their equipment and did it for him, destroying much of what was of value. In another instance, a property owner went to check on his property in another community only to find that the city had torn into a fence surrounding a portion of the property, and everything gone. Again, there was just a notice attached to the door of that property.

We need to recognize also that the state of the identified property did not take on its appearance overnight. Months and possibly years may have passed for the property to achieve the unacceptable state of being. Surely, patience by the political sub in waiting a bit longer to ensure the property owner has been duly notified doesn't add much time to the resolution of the problem and should be warranted.

That concludes my testimony. I stand for any questions.

Respectfully, Senator Mike Wobbema