



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Rep. Alisa Mitskog

District 25  
Wahpeton, ND 58075  
amitskog@ndlegis.gov

## COMMITTEES:

Appropriations

April 3, 2025

## Senate State and Local Government Committee HB 1219 Testimony

Chair Roers and Committee Members:

My name is Alisa Mitskog, I represent D25.

HB 1219 is a bill brought to you at the request of Fairview Cemetery Association. Fairview Cemetery is a beautiful perpetual care cemetery located in Wahpeton.

A **perpetual care cemetery** is a cemetery that maintains a fund dedicated to the ongoing upkeep of its grounds. This fund, also known as a **permanent care fund** or **endowed fund**, ensures long-term maintenance.

Under **Century Code 23, Section 1**, a perpetual care cemetery is required to allocate **20% of lot sales** into this fund. Only the **interest** generated from the fund can be used for operational costs related to cemetery maintenance.

Maintaining a cemetery is challenging, especially for perpetual care cemeteries that do not receive financial support from a church or other external sources. Since these cemeteries rely primarily on lot sales for revenue, many depend on **volunteers** to assist with operations. However, as volunteer availability declines, cemeteries are increasingly forced to **hire staff**, creating a significant financial burden.

To help alleviate this strain, I propose **reducing the required set-aside from 20% to 10%**. This adjustment would allow cemetery associations to retain more funds for immediate maintenance and operational expenses. For **Fairview Cemetery**, this change would result in an additional **\$4,000–\$6,000 per year** for upkeep and care.

I respectfully request your **support for this change through HB1219**.