

House Bill 1259
Andrew Alexis Varvel
March 27, 2025

**Madame Chairman Roers & Members of the
Senate State & Local Government Committee:**

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel.

I live in Edwinton, also known as Bismarck.

I won't say that I like House Bill 1259. I love it.

If the North Dakota Legislature passes House Bill 1259, this would not be the first time when our state effectively got rid of daylight savings time. The Twenty-Eighth Legislative Session also did this in 1943. During World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt imposed daylight savings time – called “War Time” during that era – onto the United States throughout the entire year.

Included is a copy of House Bill 220 from 1943. As of April 1, 1943, the Legislature put North Dakota on Mountain War Time for the duration of the war, after which we then switched back to Central Standard Time. This is implicitly referenced in section 1-01-43.

I don't really care whether North Dakota is on Central Standard Time or on Mountain Daylight Time, but I do care about keeping our time the same throughout the year. It is exasperating to have our clocks go back and forth, during every spring and every autumn.

I really like the idea of sharing half of the year with Minnesota and half of the year with Montana. This would be an expression of political equilibrium in our state, of being on the border between the West and the Midwest, where neither eastern nor western North Dakota becomes any more disadvantaged than the other.

Deciding on a time zone in North Dakota should be a local option. If counties in the southwest don't want to share their time zone with California during the summer, they should be welcome to adopt Central Standard Time and then call it Mountain Daylight Time.

If daylight time is wonderful for recreation, then let's have Mountain Daylight Time just like we did eighty years ago.

Ideally, I hope we can have a standard clock throughout our state. Personally, I think counties should have a choice between Central Standard Time and Mountain Daylight Time. I understand very well that being on Mountain Time is an expression of cultural identity.

What we shouldn't do is go onto Eastern Time or Atlantic Time just to ensure more sunlight in the evening. That would be too much like Xinjiang Province of Communist China – they're on Beijing Time.

When it comes to getting rid of daylight savings time, we have done it before, during World War II. We can – and should – do it again.

Please give House Bill 1259 a strong **DO PASS** recommendation.

Thank you for your time.

I am open for questions from this committee.

ing and disposing of said lands, not in conflict herewith or with other provisions of law.

§ 3. REPEAL.] All acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved March 26, 1943.

CHAPTER 206

H. B. No. 220—(Bolmeier)

STANDARD WAR TIME

An Act to provide a standard war time for the State of North Dakota, providing for its institution and continuance; repealing all acts in conflict therewith; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

§ 1.] Beginning at one o'clock a.m., United States Mountain War Time, of the first day of April, 1943, or as soon thereafter as this law goes into effect, the standard war time of this state shall coincide with that known and described as United States Mountain War Time, until the present War Time Proclamation of the President of the United States is no longer in effect.

§ 2.] On and after one o'clock a.m., United States Mountain War Time of the first day of April, 1943, or as soon thereafter as this law goes into effect, in all laws, statutes, orders, decrees, rules or regulations relating to the time of performance of any act by any officer or department of the state or of any county, city, township or district thereof; or relating to the time in which any rights shall accrue or terminate, or within which any act shall or shall not be performed by any person or corporation subject to the jurisdiction of this state, and in all public schools and institutions of the state, or any county, city, township or district thereof, and in all contracts made or to be performed within this state and in all decrees, orders and judgments of the courts of this state it shall be understood that the time intended, referred to or used shall be the Mountain War Time as provided in Section 1 of this act. When time in the United States returns to standard time as before this war, then this act shall no longer be in force or effect.

§ 3. REPEAL.] That all acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

§ 4. EMERGENCY.] This act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Approved March 17, 1943.
