

**To:** Chair Roers and Members of the Senate Committee on State and Local Government;

**From:** Senator Sean Cleary, District 35 — Bismarck, Bill Sponsor

**Date:** 1/23/2025

**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2219

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**Dear Chair Roers and Members of the Committee:**

I am here to present SB 2219 for your favorable consideration. I worked with the State Library on the two changes in this bill, which aim to improve the library's ability to better serve North Dakotans.

### **Proposed Changes**

- 1. Surplus Library Materials:** Grant the State Library an exemption to distribute materials directly to local public and K-12 libraries without involving state surplus.
  - The state library used to have the authority to do this, and it is what the State Historical Society currently does.
  - Streamlined distribution of surplus materials will provide timely resources to local libraries.
- 2. State Aid for Public Libraries:** Amend §54-24.2-06 to clarify that public libraries must complete the annual report to qualify for State Aid the following year.
  - Clear eligibility requirements for State Aid will promote compliance and ensure the appropriate distribution of funds.

These two changes would allow the State Library to better serve North Dakotans with more accountability.

Thank you for considering this legislation. **I respectfully ask for a "Do-Pass" recommendation.**

I am available to provide additional information or answer any questions. Mary Soucie, the state librarian, will be presenting further testimony on these changes.

Sincerely,

Sean Cleary  
State Senator  
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