

Senate State and Local Government Committee

Date: 01/31/2025

Nancy Seefeldt - Morton County Recorder

RE: SB 2259 Relating to the provision of blanks and records

Chairwoman Roers and Committee Members:

My name is Nancy Seefeldt, I am the Recorder in Morton County. I am providing testimony asking for support of SB 2259.

I have included the verbiage of the current NDCC we are wanting to be repealed.

44-04-16. Officer to provide blanks and records for office. Each county, city, township, or school district officer shall provide, at the expense of the county, city, township, or school district, as the case may be, such blanks and records as are necessary for making proper records and for transacting any official business connected with the office.

The Recorder's office records many legal documents that are associated with land. Some of those documents are deeds, mortgages, plats and liens. When these documents are sent to our office, our duty is to record these documents (if they meet our requirements) and also the safekeeping of these documents. I am afraid this century code could put our office in a difficult situation. We don't hand out blank forms for the documents listed above. These are legally binding documents and we do not have the legal background as to what will be the adequate form this person may need.

For ex. Each person/business purchasing property may have a unique situation and therefore there are different types of deeds and different versions of verbiage (as little as two words) that can change the final outcome of the deed. There is not one standard form that can be used by all.

Each recorder's office has their own set of services they provide. My office accepts passport applications and issues marriage licenses. We do have those applications available to customers if they should need them. Those are straight forward applications. where everyone is asked the same questions.

If repealed, the business we currently do will not be affected. But, we will avoid the possibility of someone finding this legislation and expecting us to provide forms for (as stated in the century code), "any official business connected with our offices".

Thank you for your time and consideration on this bill, I would appreciate your support and to please give SB 2259 a DO PASS Recommendation.

Thank you for your time and I will stand for any questions