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1255

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1255

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1255

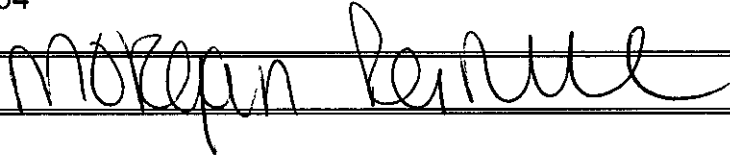
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 18, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 1404

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Rep. Kretschmar: *I'm giving this because of all of us who serve in the legislative assembly. Now that four year terms are given to the district chairs and political parties chairman. Under current law each April of an odd number year, the district party reorganizes in each of our legislative districts. Under the provisions of 1255, each district party would now reorganize every four years in the April of the year after that district's legislators are elected. If this bill were law today, next April just the odd number districts would reorganize. This bill, if it follows the normal course, would become law after the 2008 election, when the even number districts elect their legislators. All the legislators would now be elected for four years. It just becomes logical at least that our district organization should be four year terms. That is basically what the bill does and it's up to you people on the committee to determine if you want to do that.*

Rep. Karls: Has there been a large outcry from the district chairman to run for four year terms?

Rep. Kretschmar: I have not heard it but I think in our district it would be worth it.

Rep. Karls: Would this be mandatory then for all districts? Or would each district have a choice? I'm thinking ahead to maybe a person doesn't want to commit to four years.

Rep. Kretschmar: If the bill was passed as is, it would require each district.

Rep. Haas: Any other questions?

Rep. Potter: To add to what Rep. Karls was asking, if a district elected a chair for a four year term, and that chair chose to step down, there wouldn't be anything saying they couldn't resign?

Rep. Kretschmar: People in those positions can resign or move over whenever they want to. Most districts would have someone to step in during that term.

Rep. Amerman: Are we talking about the same thing, districts and precincts?

Rep. Kretschmar: It also affects the precinct committee persons. Under the statute it would be locally.

Rep. Haas: Is there additional testimony to HB 1255? If not we will close the hearing on HB 1255.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1255

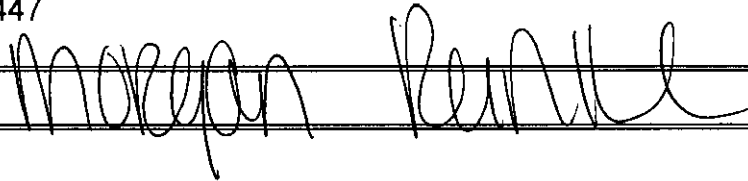
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 19, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 1447

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Rep. Haas: This is the bill about allowing political parties at the local precinct and district level to serve four years terms rather than two year terms. What are your wishes.

Rep. Amerman: I don't stand in opposition so to speak on this, but I do have my concerns. In the last general election was probably the lowest voter turn out that we've had in ND. I know in rural areas it is harder at times to generate interest as far as politics and to keep the citizens fired up. At least every two years we get an opportunity to get together and organize. In the rural areas it is definitely like that. With this you would have to go every four years which would get the citizens another two years to get lulled to sleep. That is my concern.

Rep. Haas: The fact that they serve four year terms would certainly not preclude the district in having more frequent meetings. It would simply mean the reorganization meetings would have to occur every four years.

Rep. Karls: I have the same concerns. I know that it is hard for rural counties to even find a place to hold the meetings. But personally, living in Bismarck, I would have a hard time getting precinct committee people to commit to four years. I have been the district chairman 10 years and I don't see anybody out there that wants my job. Maybe we could make that not mandatory but voluntary, let the people decide. We need flexibility.

Rep. Haas: Any other comments?

Rep. Karls: I did email the three district chairman in Bismarck and the regional chair in Edgeley to see what they had as an opinion, but didn't get a response.

Rep. Haas: Do you want to hold this bill? I need consensus. If you're ready to act on the bill I would entertain a motion.

Rep. Schneider: Would it be possible to build flexibility and let the districts decide?

Rep. Grande: It would nullify the bill. The same person could run two years, four years, etc. The whole thing is, is that you can go in and get elected for four years. That still doesn't say you can leave after two years.

Rep. Haas: What are the wishes of the committee?

Rep. Boehning: I move a do not pass

Rep. Meier: I second that

Rep. Haas: Is there any further discussion? The do not pass motion passes at a vote of 8-4-1.

Do we have a volunteer to carry this to the floor?

Rep. Boehning: I will

Date: 1-19-07
Roll Call Vote #: (

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number HB 1255

Action Taken Do not pass

Motion Made By Rep. Boehning Seconded By Rep. Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C.B Haas Chairman	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Rep. Bette Grande V.P		X	Rep. Louise Potter		X
Rep. Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Jasper Schneider	X	
Rep. Stacey Dahl	X		Rep. Lisa Wolf	X	
Rep. Glen Froseth		X			
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Jim Kasper					
Rep. Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Dave Weiler		X			

Total (Yes) 8 No 1

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Boehning

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 19, 2007 12:28 p.m.

Module No: HR-13-0831
Carrier: Boehning
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1255: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1255 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.