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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1380

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1380

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

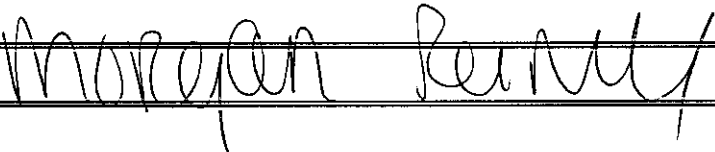
Bill/Resolution No. HB 1380

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 1, 2007

Recorder Job Number:

Committee Clerk Signature 

Minutes:

**Rep. Meier:** I just wanted to read the title of HB 1380. It relates to general procedures of elections.

**Al Jaeger:** Testimony Attached.

**Rep. Haas:** If you can't understand it now, how do you fix it?

**Al Jaeger:** Well we know what the intent is, we know the intent is for the Governor to call a special election, but it deals with initiative. We know what the intent and concept is. We just got to get the words they are supposed to be.

**Rep. Potter:** Can you go over section 4 again? Dealing with the way it is and the way you want it to change.

**Al Jaeger:** The way the law reads now is that the voter or the county auditor can make that change in the county. All this is saying is that the same thing can happen, it just cleans up the language a little bit. That change can be made.

**Rep. Potter:** How would this happen? Do I call and request you to do it? Do I call the city auditor?

**Al Jaeger:** The central voting is connected to our office so all of the counties are connected. It is a very easy thing to do.

**Rep. Dahl:** I just have a question about the 7 am to 7 p.m. How did you arrive at that number?

In current statute it says no later than 9 pm.

**Al Jaeger:** It says beginning on line 8 that they must remain open continuously until 7 p.m.

The thing that really happens with that is dealing with the information going out to the media. In discussion with the county auditors, everybody was pretty comfortable with the 7-7. Then we can get all the results out in a timely matter too.

**Rep. Dahl:** My only concern is that those two hours can affect my district greatly. I think those two hours should be open so as many people as possible can vote.

**Al Jaeger:** First of all, I don't know if anybody has stayed open until 8 but the drop off between 7 and 8 is pretty significant. They also need to keep in mind that your college students kind of work on deadlines. If people are there in line before the time is up, they can still vote. It is also consistent with education.

**Rep. Dahl:** Would it cause any harm for it to be optional to be open 7-9 pm.

**Al Jaeger:** I think it would for several reasons. One is it is hard to find poll workers the way it is, and that is a very long day. Secondly, since you are adding two hours of wages to everyone throughout the state. That means even in a small county, they are staying open the two hours. We think its better to just standardize it for everybody. The law is that it allows you the leeway of two hours, but I don't know of anyone that has been open longer than 8. Going to 9 I don't think would make a difference.

**Rep. Potter:** Having been a poll worker and worked there, I can't imagine sitting there until 9. There is so much work to do even when the polls close. It's not like you go home after that.

**Danette Ordenbach:** I just want to support this proposal of the bill for a lot of concerns. It's really important to look at the central voter files process.

**Rep. Karls:** The central voting file, is that something already in law?

**Danette Ordenbach:** Yes it is already in law.

**Rep. Karls:** Does this require then that each polling place have a computer?

**Danette Ordenbach:** No. All it keeps is the record of who has voted. Rather than having handwritten, everything will be pre printed if they have a computer.

**Rep. Haas:** Is there additional testimony on HB 1380? If not we will close the hearing on HB 1380.

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1380

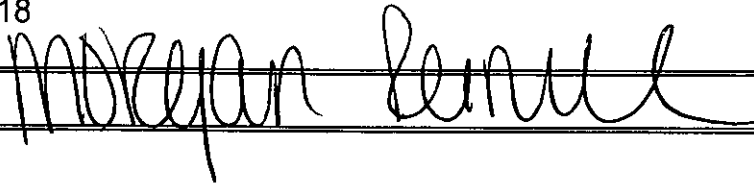
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 1, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2518

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Rep. Potter:** I move a do pass on HB 1380.

**Rep. Wolf:** I second that

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any discussion?

**Rep. Froseth:** I missed part of the hearing on this. Was there any discussion on what happens with the portion of the state that is on mountain time.

**Rep. Haas:** It is all local times no matter where.

**Rep. Boehning:** The only concerns I have is that the amendment gets taken care of, and the time from 7-7. These people have 40-50 votes some of them. There might be a lot of extra time for some of these polls.

**Rep. Kasper:** It is addressed in the bill. Those communities don't have to open until noon.

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any other discussion? If not we will take a roll call vote on HB 1380. The do pass motion for HB 1380 passes 12-0-1. Is there a volunteer to carry this on the floor?

**Rep. Potter:** I will.

Date: 2-1-07  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

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 1380

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep Potter Seconded By Rep Wolf

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Rep. Bette Grande VC			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	X				
Rep. Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Dave Weiler	X				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Potter

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1380: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
HB 1380 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



2007 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1380

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1380

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 2/23/07

Recorder Job Number: 3767

Committee Clerk Signature

*Monica Spaulding*

Minutes:

All members of the committee were present.

Senator Dever, Chairman, opened the hearing on HB 1380.

Al Jaeger, Secretary of State, introduced the bill. See attachment # 1. Section 2, page 2 (7am to 7pm poll opening) is important so the consistency will eliminate confusion for voters. With the media it can get very confusing for voters if different polling places are open varying hours.

Senator Nelson asked about the different time zones.

Al said the polls are open 7 am to 7 pm according to the time zone the polling place falls in.

He went on to explain that Section 5, page 3, lines 27 and 28 is important to save time in processing. Using the prescribed form expedites the process which becomes important when the Secretary of State's Office has only 35 days to review the signatures.

There was discussion about Section 3, the guidelines of voting rights of an incarcerated felon.

Danette Odenbach with North Dakota Association of Counties spoke in favor of the bill. See attachment # 2. She also presented testimony from Kevin Glatt, Burleigh County

Auditor/Treasurer. See attachment # 3. She made note that Kevin had omitted a very

important word on the last line of his testimony. The word "will" should be inserted before the word decrease.

Support: -

Opposition: -

Neutral: -

Chairman Dever closed the hearing on HB1380.

A do pass motion was made by Senator J. Lee.

The motion was seconded by Senator Nelson.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Carrier: Oehlke



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1380: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1380  
was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1380

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1380

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 29, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5633

Committee Clerk Signature

*Morgan Bentley*

Minutes:

**Rep. Froseth:** Our chairman did not concur with the amendment the Senate placed on HB 1380. I believe the only amendment the Senate put on the bill was on page 2 line 9 which changes the closing dates of the polling place from 7 to 8 pm. Just a little explanation about the testimony in our committee was. The Secretary of State's office was trying to create uniformity across the entire state dealing with opening the polls so there would be no confusion from one county to another. The house passed it out the way it was brought to us. When the amendment was placed on, we received numerous emails from the county auditors not liking that at all. They didn't like the whole section. There is too much variation across the state. I handed out a pack of emails we received. These are the ones that Chairman Haas received. I got basically the same ones from various counties. Today I received another 6-8 from other counties. These are some of the concerns that they had. At this time I will open the floor for discussion. I don't know what the reason was.

**Sen. Oehlke:** As I recall it was a floor amendment. It mainly came from someone who lives in the area of a state where there is a community College. They indicated at 8 pm there were still roughly 400 people in line waiting to vote. They were able to vote because they were in line when the polls closed. They were concerned that if 7 pm was the absolute closing time in that

area, the candidates might suffer and people might not get the opportunity to vote. Some of these emails that I have gotten have some concern for how long it is going to take after the polls close to get shut down. I emailed one of the Auditor's back and said if you looked at some of the other bills that we dealt with that have gone through relative to precincts and ballots will shorten up that time limit. Once the 8pm hits, they aren't going to have to be there 4 hours counting ballots. They are allowed to start counting absentee's right when the pools open. They don't have to wait until the polls close. I don't know if that part really holds so much water but that is the reasoning for the 8pm.

**Rep. Boehning:** If we could get some wording in there where the college can stay open later and open up at their discretion? If they want to open up at noon or whatever but can't close later then 8 pm.

**Rep. Froseth:** If you read the language where it says the polls must be open at 9 am, but not earlier than 7 am. Then you go down the line to 9 and 10 but not open later than 9 pm. So they have a two hour window at the end of the day. Most of the emails and correspondence I had with the auditors left it to their discretion. They could invest their polling hours. A lot of them use elderly people as poll workers.

**Sen. Dever:** I know that this is a rule that is often violated. The only amendment to this is regarding the closing time of the polls. If you want to consider the opening times we can. I don't know if that is appropriate because it isn't part of the amendment.

**Rep. Boehning:** I guess that it is a rule that gets violated quite often.

**Sen. Dever:** More often than not.

**Rep. Amerman:** I don't know the rule either but I know it occurs. If we wanted to reconsider, I think first of all that we have to consider what the Senate has to be. If we want to reconsider amending further than they have, then they would have to do it that way.



**Rep. Froseth:** I think the easiest way to solve this problem is to further amend and amend out section 2.

**Sen. Dever:** I don't think I am ready to do that.

**Rep. Amerman:** I would have to agree with your suggestion this time. After the bill was passed out there was some conversation in my area that there is a cause factor that comes in. They said leave it to their discretion. It does give them options like that 4 hour window. I'm sure there was concern by the Senator that made the amendment because of the early voting and absentee voting.

**Rep. Dever:** As I read the testimony that you have from Secretary of State, I see that it says in discussion with the county auditors everybody was pretty comfortable with the 7-7. As I recall there were some thoughts about if the polls don't open until noon. Even 9 am is late. The busiest time for polls, in Bismarck anyway, is before people go to work in the morning.

**Rep. Froseth:** But they can't open any earlier than 7 am. I can certainly see the point that the larger cities that have more shift workers and so forth probably need to be open later than 7. They may need to stay open until 8 or 9. That is the reason why the suggestion was to leave it to their discretion so they can do what is best for them. In our area we still have to drive to Minot after the polls close. I don't think the polls want to be open any later than 7 pm because they have an hour to travel to bring the ballots to Minot. By the time you get home it is midnight.

**Rep. Boehning:** To me the 7 pm is too early for the mandatory shut down. If you get to the larger cities like Fargo and such, or people driving from rural areas, is too early. I like the 8 pm because it is better than the 9 pm. It gets kind of late. I like the 8 pm but I don't like the starting times. I think they should be left up to discretion. I think the discretion that they have to close at

8 is good. They can close earlier if they want because you get some of the rural counties that have 600 votes total.

**Rep. Amerman:** In answer to Rep. Boehning, if you put in that until 8 pm, they can be open until 9 which give them even more time.

**Rep. Boehning:** I guess I think the 9 pm is too late. I would leave the 8 pm for closing and no later. I think the starting time should be up to the discretion. We should have a set time to close. In Fargo at 7 pm the polls are still busy. I think 8 pm would have plenty of time. I have more problems with the starting time than the 8 pm time.

**Rep. Froseth:** Your suggestion would be to remove on line 9 the 8 pm and then remove the overstrike on 9 and insert 8 pm there. So they can open when they want but can't stay open past 8 pm.

**Rep. Boehning:** We would have to leave 7 over struck as well. They must remain open continuously until 8 pm. They can't be open later than 9 pm. Instead of 9 pm put 8 pm in there. Remove the overstrike and insert 8 pm and leave everything else over struck. If they know they aren't going to have any more people come in and vote in some of the rural areas, they could close down.

**Sen. Dever:** I think the issue of the small, low turnout precincts is addressed in line 7. They have already got a short time frame period from noon until closing.

**Rep. Boehning:** But if you have 76 votes you have to open at 7 am.

**Sen. Dever:** There has to be a cut off somewhere.

**Rep. Froseth:** I have not heard any complaints about the way it is by leaving the counties to decide when they want to open and close.

**Sen. Dever:** The only complaints I heard about in the last primary election was that there were legislator's who had administrative rules committee meeting in Bismarck. They went to the polls to vote before they left home and where unable to because the polls weren't open.

**Rep. Amerman:** They must not have known about early voting.

**Sen. Dever:** I know that we aren't here just to satisfy the needs of legislators but I think if that affects legislators it affects others as well.

**Rep. Froseth:** That is bound to happen in any election and whose fault is that? They should look at their schedule.

**Sen. Oehlke:** I think part of the heartache with this whole thing is advertisement of when polls are open and when they are closed. When you have the larger populated areas you might have places that are close to each other like Grand Forks, Thompson, and Emerado. They each might have different times. When someone is listening to the radio and they hear the polls are open at 7. That is what they hear. They don't think about where it actually is. There were complaints that came out of some of the areas. Obviously we can't solve the entire problem but if everyone was the same state wide, maybe someone wouldn't get there because they are late or early, but they wouldn't be able to blame it on advertisement.

**Rep. Froseth:** It is their responsibility to be informed.

**Sen. Dever:** I think the whole point of having this section in the bill was to provide universality across the state for the purposes that were mentioned. I'm wondering if we see a need to allow them to be open until a different time then other areas, if we should leave that to the local county instead of a local precinct. All of one county would be open at the same time and people might get a better message that way.

**Rep. Froseth:** So all the precincts in one county will have to go by what the county wants. I think in the primary and general elections the county determines the polling places as well.

**Sen. Dever:** What you're pertaining to would be local elections like in the local setting or local township elections. They set the polling places and different times so different places in the county might have different times than other precincts.

**Al Jaeger:** I have a lot of information that I can provide. The counties set the polling hours but the precincts within the counties have controlling hours. It has been one of the concerns and that is why we had suggested 7-7pm. I think the biggest concern with the 8pm is that there are only 2 counties in the state that are open until 8pm. From our standpoint the 8pm would really goof up 51 counties. The current law is what Rep. Froseth was saying. They can be open from 7am-9pm. I don't know of anybody that is going to stay open until 9pm. I don't like that. I don't think anybody is going to stay open that late but they do have that window. The whole intent was just to get uniformity across the state for promotion and advertising. Within a county we have precincts that open at 7am. Some of the smaller ones open at 9am. The other thing in terms of concerns is that was the first election for the county auditor. All of those issues that he was concerned about with people standing in line, those issues have all been resolved and taken care of. I doubt that it will happen again. The way it is now, the way the bill was amended in the Senate, the 8pm puts a burden on people. It impacts 51 counties.

**Rep. Froseth:** Does anyone want to make a motion?

**Sen. Dever:** I don't think that we need to resolve it yet.

**Rep. Froseth:** Shall we schedule another meeting?

**Sen. Dever:** I would like to visit a little with the sponsor. I'm not sure if there were 400 people in line at 8pm, how many had been in line at 7pm.

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1380

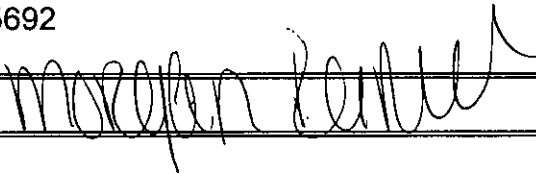
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: April 3, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5692

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Rep. Froseth:** We will continue our discussion on the Senate amendment on page 2 line 9 stating the polls will stay open at 8 rather than 7. I guess everyone understands that. They can open anywhere from 7-9 in the morning and close anywhere between 7-9 in the evening, giving it flexibility. I received a lot more emails from counties who do not want this. Does the Senate have any further information or discussion that we want to continue?

**Sen. Dever:** I had a visit with the Secretary of State and he indicated that county auditors across the state are working together to universalize the times that they would be open. They are having a conference in May to discuss that. The big concern is to not be any confusion amongst the voters on who opens at what time. I think that is pretty important. I think with that we ought to give them a chance to do that. I would make a motion to remove lines 1-16 on page 2 and make the appropriate changes in the title of the bill.

**Rep. Froseth:** So we would be removing the entire section 2?

**Sen. Dever:** Yes.

**Rep. Froseth:** By doing that you would revert back to the bill.

**Sen. Dever:** By doing that we aren't addressing the opening time either, except that our expectation would be that they would. If they don't there will be another bill. So I would move

that the Senate recede from their amendments and further amend to delete lines 1-16 on page 2 and make the appropriate changes in the title of the bill.

**Sen. Oehlke:** I second that.

**Rep. Froseth:** Is there discussion?

**Sen. Oehlke:** We aren't taking more out than we really want to? The further amendment just takes section 2 off?

**Rep. Froseth:** Yes. We will take a roll call vote for HB 1380. The motion passes 6-0-0.

**Sen. Dever:** My understanding is the house is done with the bill but the Senate needs a carrier to take it to the floor.

**Sen. Oehlke:** I will.

**Rep. Froseth:** That ends our discussion on HB 1380.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)**

Bill Number HB 1380 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 3-29-07

Your Conference Committee GVA

**For the Senate:**

**For the House:**

	YES / NO			YES / NO	
Sen. <sup>x</sup> Denike			Rep. <sup>x</sup> Frost		
Sen. <sup>x</sup> Dever			Rep. Boehning		
Sen. <sup>x</sup> Marcellais			Rep. <sup>x</sup> Ameeman		

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (S/H) page(s) 826 -- 826

\_\_\_\_\_, and place \_\_\_\_\_ on the Seventh order.

\_\_\_\_\_, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place \_\_\_\_\_ on the Seventh order:

\_\_\_\_\_, having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) \_\_\_\_\_ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CARRIER: \_\_\_\_\_

LC NO.	of amendment
LC NO.	of engrossment
Emergency clause added or deleted	
Statement of purpose of amendment	

MOTION MADE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE COUNT    \_\_\_ YES    \_\_\_ NO    \_\_\_ ABSENT

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)**

Bill Number HB 1380 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4/3/07

Your Conference Committee GVA

**For the Senate:**

**For the House:**

	YES / NO			YES / NO	
Sen. Oehike	X		Rep. Froese	X	
Sen. Dwyer	X		Rep. Boehning	X	
Sen. Marcellais	X		Rep. Amerman	X	

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) 826 - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, and place \_\_\_\_\_ on the Seventh order.

X, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place HB 1380 on the Seventh order:

\_\_\_\_\_, having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) \_\_\_\_\_ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: 4/3/07

CARRIER: Sen. Oehike

LC NO.	of amendment
LC NO.	of engrossment
Emergency clause added or deleted	
Statement of purpose of amendment	

MOTION MADE BY: Sen. Dwyer

SECONDED BY: Sen. Oehike

VOTE COUNT 6 YES 0 NO 0 ABSENT



**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**HB 1380:** Your conference committee (Sens. Oehlke, Dever, Marcellais and Reps. Froseth, Boehning, Amerman) recommends that the **SENATE RECEDE** from the Senate amendments on HJ page 826, adopt amendments as follows, and place HB 1380 on the Seventh order:

That the Senate recede from its amendments as printed on page 826 of the House Journal and page 633 of the Senate Journal and that House Bill No. 1380 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 1, replace "sections" with "section" and remove "and 16.1-01-03"

Page 2, remove lines 1 through 16

Renumber accordingly

HB 1380 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1380

ALVIN A. JAEGER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

THE PAGE www.nd.gov/sos



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SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

February 1, 2007

TO: Representative Haas, Chairman,  
and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

FR: Al Jaeger, Secretary of State

RE: HB 1380 -- General Procedures for Elections

Section 1, page 1: Extends from 30-55 days to 90 days in which the Governor may call a special election and eliminates the Secretary of State's authority to reduce the deadlines. This change is to make the timeline is consistent with all other elections.

Section 2, page 2: Establishes the same time throughout the state for the opening and closing of polls, i.e., 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The only exception for a noon opening remains for any precinct that had 75 or fewer votes in the previous general election.

Section 3, page 2: Changes Century Code to match text in state's constitution

Section 4, page 2: Establishes a procedure in the central voter file to allow the county auditor or the voter to transfer the voter's name from their former residential precinct to his or her new residential precinct regardless where it is located within the state.

Section 5, page 3, lines 10 and 11: Makes it clear that the signatures of members of a measure sponsoring committee must be original

Section 5, page 3, lines 27 and 28: Requires petitions to be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State

ALVIN A. JAEGER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

February 23, 2007

*attach #1*

TO: Senator Dever, Chairman,  
and Members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

FR: Al Jaeger, Secretary of State

RE: HB 1380 – General Procedures for Elections

Section 1, page 1, lines 8 and 14: Extends from 30-55 days to 90 days in which the Governor may call a special election. This change is to make the timeline is consistent with all other elections.

Section 1, page 1 lines 17 thru 23: Eliminates the Secretary of State's authority to reduce the deadlines.

Section 2, page 2: Establishes the same time throughout the state for the opening and closing of polls, i.e., 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The only exception for a noon opening remains for any precinct that had 75 or fewer votes in the previous general election.

Section 3, page 2: Changes Century Code to match text in state's constitution

Section 4, page 2: Establishes a procedure in the central voter file to allow the county auditor or the voter to transfer the voter's name from their former residential precinct to his or her new residential precinct regardless where it is located within the state.

Section 5, page 3, lines 10 and 11: Makes it clear that the signatures of members of a measure sponsoring committee must be original

Section 5, page 3, lines 27 and 28: Requires petitions to be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State

*attach #2*

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE GVA COMMITTEE**

Prepared January 26, 2007 by  
Danette Odenbach  
North Dakota Association of Counties

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 1380**

Chairman Dever and members of the Senate GVA Committee:

The North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) submits this testimony in support of House Bill 1380.

House Bill 1380 amends section 16.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code to standardize the deadlines for special elections, establish uniform polling site hours, allow counties to transfer voters and their histories between counties, and to establish a prescribed form for petitions.

By standardizing the deadlines for special elections, counties are provided with the time necessary to create, proof and print ballots, test election equipment, retain poll workers, and take care of other election critical details prior to the date of the election.

By establishing uniform polling site hours for elections, voters can trust the information they hear on the radio or on TV applies to their polling site, as well as those located within the city where the message is originating.

House Bill 1380 would allow counties to transfer voters and their voting histories through the Central Voter File, giving counties the ability to maintain accurate information for their pollbooks and required reports, while also giving the state the ability to maintain one record for one voter, regardless of their residency history in the state. Currently, counties can only transfer the voter information from precinct to precinct within their county – they cannot move voter information from one county to another, even when the voter has moved and filed an updated address in the county office, with the Department of Transportation, or at the polls.

The North Dakota Association of Counties appreciates your consideration and requests a Do Pass recommendation on House Bill 1380.

Testimony to the  
**Senate Government & Veterans Affairs Committee**  
presented February 23, 2007  
by Kevin J. Glatt  
Burleigh County Auditor\Treasurer

*Attach #3*

**Concerning HB1380**

Chairman Dever and members of the committee, I am sorry that I am not able to appear today to express my support for HB1380.

For several years election workers in Burleigh County requested that polling places be closed at 7PM rather than 8PM. In November 2000 I requested Election Boards document the number of votes cast between 7PM and 8PM in order to make a case to the Burleigh County Commission regarding closing early. Nine (9) precincts provided accurate counts of the number of votes cast between 7PM and 8PM. **This sample of approximately 1/3 of the precincts showed that only 1.7% of the ballots cast on Election Day were cast in between 7PM and 8PM.** Please note that this was a record turnout in Burleigh County.

Based upon this information the Burleigh County Commission has since set polling hours from 7AM to 7PM in the City of Bismarck and those precincts just outside city limits. I will recommend those hours throughout Burleigh County for all future elections in order to limit confusion regarding election hours.

will Mr. Chairman, as I believe this legislation will not hinder voter turnout and decrease election costs, I encourage your support for this bill.

(OVER)

NOVEMBER 7, 2000  
 General Election  
 VOTES CAST BETWEEN 7:00pm & 8:00pm

		<u>total</u>	<u>7/8</u>	<u>%</u>
Pct 16	City of Lincoln	560	28	4.8
Pct 21	Courthouse	610	9	1.4
Pct 35	Myhre School	957	16	1.7
Pct 41	BSC	1158	23	2
Pct 42	Grimsrud School	1194	20	1.7
Pct 43	Highland Acres School	864	16	1.9
Pct 52	State Capitol	1295	20	1.5
Pct 54	Pioneer School	747	10	1.3
Pct 56	Will Moore School	1304	12	0.9
		8,689	154	1.7%

These 9 precinct are a sample (29%) of the 31 precincts that are open from 7:00pm until 8:00pm.