

2023 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1235

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1235
1/26/2023

Relating to term beginning dates for elected state government officials.
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Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, and Mary Schneider. Rep. Hoverson not present.

Discussion Topics:

- Unified start dates

Representative Dockter introduced HB 1235 verbally testified with supportive testimony.

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 10:24 AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk By: Leah Kuball

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1235
1/26/2023

Relating to term beginning dates for elected state government officials.
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Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 3:59 PM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, and Mary Schneider present. Rep. Louser not present.

Discussion Topics:

- Health insurance
- End date terms

Lori Zegler, Legislative Council, answers questions from the committee.

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 4:11 PM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk By: Leah Kuball

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1235
2/2/2023

Relating to term beginning dates for elected state government officials.

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 11:38 AM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, and Mary Schneider present. Rep. Louser not present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee work
- Amendment (23.0717.01001)

Representative Louser moved to amend HB 1235. (23.0717.01001)

Seconded by Representative Vetter.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion carries 13-0-0.

Representative Vetter moved a do pass as amended on HB 1235.

Seconded by Representative Steiner.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	N
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion carries 12-1-0

Bill carrier: Representative Cory

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk By: Leah Kuball

23.0717.01001
Title.02000

Adopted by the House Government and
Veterans Affairs Committee
February 2, 2023

2/2/23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1235

Page 1, line 9, replace "fifteenth" with "first"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1235: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (12 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1235 was placed
on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 9, replace "fifteenth" with "first"

Renumber accordingly

2023 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 1235

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1235
3/16/2023

Relating to term beginning dates for elected state government officials.

8:50 AM Chair Roers opened the hearing. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Date change
- Benefit issue

Rep Dockter, Dist 7, bill sponsor testified in support with no written testimony.

John Gottfried, ND Insurance Commissioner, testified in support with no written testimony.

Randy Christmann, Public Service Commission Chair, testified opposed #25547.

9:10 AM Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1235
3/24/2023

Relating to term beginning dates for elected state government officials.
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2:46 PM Chair Roers opened committee work. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Sen Estenson moved a DO NOT PASS.

Sen Lee seconded the motion.

Sen Estenson withdrew her motion.

Sen Lee withdrew her second.

Sen Estenson moved a DO PASS.

Sen Lee seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – 6 NO – 0 Absent – 0 Motion Carried

Sen Barta will carry the bill.

2:55 PM Chair Roers adjourned the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1235, as engrossed: State and Local Government Committee (Sen. K. Roers, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1235 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1235

House Bill 1235

Presented by: Randy Christmann, Chair
Public Service Commission

Before: Senate State & Local Government Committee
The Honorable Senator Kristen Roers, Chair

Date: March 16, 2023

TESTIMONY

Mr. Chair and committee members, I am Randy Christmann, chair of the Public Service Commission.

While I understand the potential benefits of starting terms of elected officials earlier, I am very concerned that there is more to the equation than has been considered.

There are a few of us who go back to the times of more competitive statewide elections in November. The situation for the winners of those elections was quite different. In the most recent election, the reality was that many candidates pretty much knew who would be elected the previous summer. For those who were destined to be elected in November there was plenty of time to deal with their previous livelihoods, make housing arrangements, and prepare for their new positions.

Not so long ago it was completely different. Some of us absolutely did not know who would win the November election until the votes were counted. Then it was time to deal with our previous livelihoods. For some that means resigning from jobs and preparing successors. For some that could mean shuttering small businesses and laying off employees. For me that meant selling livestock, finding a renter, arranging a share-

agreement for the livestock I retained, and exploring housing options in or near Bismarck. It was actually a significant challenge to hit the ground running by January 1.

I do understand that the Governor already has an earlier start time, but it should be noted that he or she at least has housing pre-arranged. Other comparisons include the President who doesn't start until January 20 and U.S. Senators and Representatives who do not start until after January 1.

The competitiveness of election cycles will ebb and flow but the current system has worked well for a lot of years. At the very least, please consider turning this bill into a study so the Legislature can more thoroughly study the pros and cons of this idea.

Chairman Roers, this concludes my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions.