

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

4014

2005 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4014

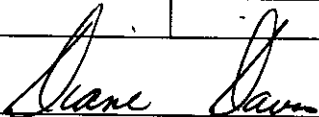
2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. **SB SCR 4014**

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 10, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	5246-5900
2	x		0-133
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Chairman Krebsbach opens hearing on SCR 4014

Resolution directing the Legislative Council to study vote by mail election processes.

(meter #5246)

Senator Nething - Sponsor

Jim Nowatzki - Jamestown business owner - See written testimony.

Senator Syverson - Asked what the Stutsman County Advisory Council is.

Nowatzki - Responded on how they set this up and with who.

Closed the hearing

(meter #5900)

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Senate Government and Veterans Affairs

Bill/Resolution Number **SB 4014**

Hearing Date February 10, 2005

(Tape 2, Side A, meter # 0)

Senator Brown -motioned do pass

Senator Nelson - seconded

Senator Syverson will carry

(meter #133)

Date: 2/10/05
Roll Call Vote #: /

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass on CR 4014

Motion Made By Senator Brown Seconded By Senator Nelson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Karen K. Krebsbach, Chairman	X		Carolyn Nelson	X	
Richard L. Brown, Vice Chairman	X				
Judy Lee	X				
John O. Syverson	X				

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Syverson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 10, 2005 4:18 p.m.

Module No: SR-27-2488
Carrier: Syverson
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4014: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Krebsbach, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SCR 4014 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

SCR 4014

4014

Stutsman County Advisory Committee
Stutsman County Courthouse
Jamestown, ND 58401

Honorable Senators:

My name is Jim Nowatzki, I am a Jamestown business owner. I am currently Chairman of the Stutsman County Advisory Committee.

Last October, our courthouse was swamped with people to cast absentee votes for the November Presidential election. Our new County Auditor, Noel Johnson and his staff, did an excellent job of accommodating those that were applying for absentee ballots. There were no complaints, it just seemed a little 'awkward'. When a person registered, you could either (1) immediately vote and turn the ballot in to the Auditor or (2) take it home and either mail, or bring, it back to the Auditor's office.

Current legislation now allows a county to establish an early voting precinct. We feel our County Auditor Noel Johnson has a very satisfactory method worked out for the next election. This is good and should increase voter turnout. But, it can create long-range problems if each county does this in their own manner.

We need the Legislature to establish a method for state-wide casting of absentee ballots, to avoid problems and the possibility of fraud.

One of our Committee members was aware that the State of Oregon conducts their vote by a 'mail process'. As this was not in the realm of our County Advisory Committee, I spoke to Senator Nething, asking if 'vote-by-mail might be a good process for the State of North Dakota'. He promised that he would ask the Legislative Council to study vote-by-mail election processes. He called me earlier this week asking if I would attend this meeting.

Current Resolution Number 4014, states that Oregon did conduct its first statewide election by mail in June 1993 and, through the initiative process, the voters of Oregon expanded the vote by mail process to primary and general elections in 1998.

Your resolution indicates that the vote by mail elections in Oregon have resulted in higher voter turnout, have proven to be convenient, and have resulted in virtually no voter fraud.

With greater voter response to a new method of voting, a goal of 75% turnout would be an amazing fete for the State of North Dakota and be beneficial to our future.

We heartily recommend this study be undertaken as outlined in Resolution #4014.