

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO.**

Introduced by

Representative Berg

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-15 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to adoption and referral of budgets of cities, counties, and school  
3 districts in biennial cycles; and to provide an effective date.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 57-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Adoption and referral of budgets of city, county, or school district in biennial**  
8 **cycles.** The governing body of a city, county, or school district at the time of adoption of its  
9 final budget for the current taxable year shall adopt a preliminary budget for the immediately  
10 succeeding taxable year. The governing body shall cause notice of the preliminary budget to  
11 be published in the official newspaper of the city, county, or school district at least once each  
12 week for two consecutive weeks.

13 1. The preliminary budget adopted by the governing is subject to referral and the  
14 governing body shall put the issue before the qualified electors of the city, county,  
15 or school district when a petition in writing, signed by qualified electors of the city,  
16 county, or school district equal in number to at least ten percent of the total vote  
17 cast in the city, county, or school district for the office of governor at the last regular  
18 election is presented to that governing body.

19 2. If a majority of the qualified electors of the city, county, or school district voting on  
20 the question in an initiative election under subsection 1 approves an increase or  
21 decrease to the preliminary budget as adopted by the governing body, the  
22 governing body of the city, county, or school district shall adopt a final budget or  
23 levy not exceeding the amount approved by the electors.

1           3.   If the preliminary budget of the city, county, or school district is not disapproved by  
2                   the electors of the taxing district, the final budget adopted by the city, county, or  
3                   school district governing board may not exceed the amount of the preliminary  
4                   budget.

5           **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective for taxable years beginning after  
6   December 31, 2008.