



# North Dakota Legislative Council

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## **TESTIMONY - HOUSE BILL NO. 1039 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS JANUARY 14, 2021**

Respectfully submitted by Claire Ness, Counsel, Legislative Council

This neutral testimony provides information regarding House Bill No. 1039 (2021), which was introduced by the Legislative Management at the request of the 2019-20 Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee. House Bill No. 1039 amends North Dakota Century Code Section 48-08-03 to place the North Dakota Newspaper Association and North Dakota Broadcasters Association jointly in charge of the media room in the Capitol. In the past, a correspondent of the Associated Press held responsibility for the media room, but the Associated Press indicated it no longer wishes to have that responsibility. The North Dakota Broadcasters Association and North Dakota Newspaper Association agreed to share responsibility for the media room and offered the language in the bill to the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee.

House Bill No. 1039 also replaces the phrase "accredited representatives of daily and other newspapers and full-time correspondents of accredited press associations" with the phrase "the media." Like the Associated Press correspondent in the past, the North Dakota Newspaper Association and North Dakota Broadcasters Association will have discretion over which individuals and organizations may use the media room. During the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee discussion regarding the bill, testimony was received indicating the media room is intended to serve as a space for statehouse correspondents rather than free office space for all reporters and correspondents.