

# NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE CAPITOL  
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## Representative Vicky Steiner

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## COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation  
Government and Veterans Affairs

February 12, 2021

HB 1031-in support

Thank you Chairman and Members of Senate GVA,

My name is Vicky Steiner, District 37, Dickinson, ND

Because of COVID, the interim committee assigned this topic by Legislative Management had limited time to discuss it. The GVA committee added some needed clarifications with the approval of the interim chair of Govt Finance.

The bill addresses the issue of agency fees. Fees are a type of tax. There are currently 1257 fees applied to citizens by agencies. 355 fees are deposited in the general fund, others are deposited in the operating budget.

The bill seeks to inform the legislative body about the fees. Because of the number of fees, the project is split in two - year and four-year report time increments. Agencies like ND Game and Fish run by fees will not be included in the study. Its fees that go to the General Fund and part of an operating budget.

In Section 1, agencies that have less than 40 fees, the agencies have until July 1 of 2022 to make a simple explanation on each fee to the Office of Management and budget as described in the bill. OMB is agreeable to supervising and providing a compiled report for legislators by Sept. 1 in the even year of biennium. If the agency is unable to get the task done, they can ask for an extension from legislative management. Agencies with 41 or greater fees, and there are 7 of them, they will have 4 years to compile information on their fees. There was some concern about the time it might take agencies with large numbers of fees so they have 4 years to work on it. New fees, moving forward, may not come thru administrative rule but can come thru statute, Budget section or emergency commission. Each biennium as fees are deleted, increased or decreased, legislators will be notified of the changes thru legislative management reports.

Section 2 is a shall consider study. The study is not about specific fees but as a legislature, what are our expectations and guidelines to the state agencies regarding their creation of fees in the future. The study may inform us what the dollar amount is for the fees deposited in the general fund. We have the ultimate responsibility for the fees that our citizens pay. The emergency clause is so that agencies can begin work as soon as possible.

I stand in support 1031. Thank you for your consideration.

## Steiner, Vicky L.

**From:** Gallion, Joshua C.  
**nt:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:32 PM  
**Subject:** Steiner, Vicky L.  
Fee Counts by State Agency

Agency	Count of Fee Description
Secretary of State	315
Information Technology Department	125
Game and Fish	112
Department of Transportation	102
NDSU Extension Service	59
Health Department	46
Attorney General	44
Highway Patrol	28
Bank of North Dakota	27
Insurance Department	26
Securities Department	26
Housing Finance Agency	25
Parks and Recreation	24
Department of Agriculture	23
x Department	19
Department of Trust Lands	17
Industrial Commission	16
State Water Commission	14
Judicial Branch	12
Public Service Commission	12
State Seed	12
Department of Corrections	11
ND Stockmen's Association	11
Minot State University	9
Bismarck State College	8
Dakota College at Bottineau	8
Department of Financial Institutions	8
Dickinson State University	8
Lake Region State College	8
North Dakota State College of Science	8
North Dakota State University	8
University of North Dakota	8
Williston State College	8
HS	7
School for the Blind	7

Valley City State University	7
Mayville State University	6
State Auditors Office	5
Workforce Safety & Insurance	5
Adjutant General	4
Aeronautics Commission	4
Department of Commerce	4
ND Racing Commission	4
Department of Public Instruction	3
Legal Counsel for Indigents	3
State Historical Society	3
Career and Technical Education	2
Public Finance	2
Administrative Hearings	1
Department of Labor and Human Rights	1
Job Service	1
State Library	1
Grand Total	1257

**Joshua C. Gallion**  
State Auditor



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