

Testimony to:

Senate IBL SB2244

January 27, 2021

Cpl. Ron Nord, Civil Process Division

Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office

Good morning Chairman Lefor and committee members, my name is Cpl. Ron Nord from the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department. I've been in Law Enforcement for over 34 years in the State of North Dakota.

I'm testifying in support of Senate Bill 2244 for the various reasons. This bill seeks to align North Dakota's civil fees with that of our surrounding states, as well as recognize continued increases in the cost to provide this responsibility in our communities as mileage and salaries have increased while the fees have held steady.

When compared to other states that surround North Dakota, North Dakota is trailing everyone with comparison of fees for the same civil papers, for example:

- The basic summons & complaint papers- MN/\$45-60, SD/\$50-60, MT/\$50-100, and ND is \$20
- Writ of Execution, such as Forcible Eviction- MN/\$110-180, SD/\$95-100, MT/\$70-100, and ND is \$40
- 3-Day Notice to Evict- MN/\$60, SD/\$50-60, MT/\$50-65, and ND is \$20
- When it comes to charging commission on Sheriff's Sales, North Dakota again is coming last: MN/5-7%, SD/6%, MT/5% and ND is 1%.

The last time that fees were changed in North Dakota was 2001 and has not been touched since.

The Sheriff's in North Dakota are mandated by law, 11-15-03 section 8, Duties of the Sheriff to "Serve all process or notices in the manner prescribed by law". If the Sheriff does not fulfill this duty, they are held accountable to the courts and liable for funds or assets if so directed to collect or gather from the order.

It is sad to hear that Civilian process servers are telling their customers to go to the local Sheriff's Departments to get papers served, as it would be cheaper than what the Civilian process server can serve the papers. A private investigator provided me this information. North Dakota Sheriff's Offices should not be competing with other community businesses for work, that is why the fees should be comparable to those who do the same work.

As the Chairman of the North Dakota Civil Process Board, we give two classes each year to Officers regarding Serving Civil Process in North Dakota called "Sheriff's In-service" the first thing we tell the Officers attending is "Serving Civil Papers can kill you"! I know this all too well, as I was the deputy in Grand Forks that was shot on May 27, 2020. People's attitudes and behavior towards Law Enforcement has deteriorated and are becoming more violent and extreme. When the Sheriff's Office receives an order from the court, we must carry out the order. It is our job!

I ask you to give SB 2244 a Do Pass Recommendation.