

Good morning, Chairman Elkin and Senate Education members,

My name is Kathy Frelich. I'm from Devils Lake and I gladly represent District 15.

House Bill 1270 is related to the recording, publishing, and archiving of school district board meetings. As a new legislator, I assumed this would be an easy Bill, but I now see there's no such thing.

My hope regarding this Bill is to provide parents and district citizens greater access to School Board meetings. It is my firm belief that information is always a good thing and I believe technology can provide that access.

It is very difficult to get to every school board meeting. Although meetings may be low in attendance, I don't believe it's because people aren't interested. Parents are busy. Citizens of a school district are busy. We still want access to meetings. Consider my own situation. I am on the road a lot and I can listen to both the county and city commission meetings from my area. This way, I stay abreast of what is going on in my community. Shouldn't we have the same ease of access to know the decisions being made for our children?

As you know, School Board meetings are subject to Open Meeting laws. I think we saw during the pandemic that school districts have the electronic means by which to allow for public viewing. This access is not cost prohibitive. Schools are streaming basketball games, concerts, and all their special events. The Pandemic taught us, "if there is a will, there is a way".

I met with the Executive Director of the ND School Board Association. We discussed ways in which the requirements of this Bill could be met while making sure this was not a difficult task for the School Boards. I've attached a couple amendments you may want to consider.

Chairman Elkin and members of the Education committee, I believe we live in a time that technology should be aiding in our quest for information. Keep in mind, as I am speaking today, I am being recorded so that any interested citizen may witness my testimony. Transparency has become a key word in today's talking points.

Last year, the office of the ND Attorney General prepared a manual regarding open meetings. On page 2 of the manual, it states "the open meeting law should be construed liberally in favor of the public's access to information." Now, to me this means that whenever possible, the public's access should trump the inconvenience of recording the meeting. I hope you will agree and vote to pass HB 1270.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll stand for questions.

## **Proposed amendments to HB 1207**

Section 1, Page 2, Subsection 6, Line 5

“At the request of a resident of the School District,”

Section 1, Page 2, Subsection 6, Line 7

“make available on its website a link to the recordings”

Remove: “publish on its website a link to each”

## What would it take?



Roll over image to zoom in



ipad Tripod Stand, with 65 inch Height Adjustable iPad Stand Holder & iPad Floor Stand with 360° Rotating iPad Tripod Mount for iPad Pro, iPhone, Kindle, and All 4.5-12.9 Inch Tablets

Brand: SAMHOUSING

★★★★★ 503 ratings | 13 answered questions

Amazon's Choice for "ipad tripod"

\$17<sup>99</sup>

Get Fast, Free Shipping with Amazon Prime

FREE Returns

Get \$60 off instantly: Pay \$0.00 ~~\$17.99~~ upon approval for the Amazon Prime Store Card. No annual fee.

Brand SAMHOUSING

Compatible Devices Tablets

Compatible Phone Models Compatible with iPad Pro 9.7"/10.5"/11"/12.9", iPad Air 9.7"/10.5", iPad 9.7"/10.2", iPad Mini 7.9", iPhone 11/12 Pro, 11/12, 11, 12 Mini, SE, Kindle, Kindle Paperwhite, Kindle Oasis, Galaxy Tab S6 Lite, Galaxy...

\*Tablet or a smart phone

\*Tripod and a cordless microphone

\*Media platform: Youtube, Facebook, Zoom

\*Link on the website



Dual Wireless Microphone for iPhone iPad, Professional Wireless Lavalier Microphone for Video Recording, Clip On Lapel Mic for YouTube/Interview/Vlog/Presentation/Face book Live

Brand: CKOKC

★★★★★ 313 ratings | 36 answered questions

-40% \$29<sup>99</sup>

List Price: \$49.99

FREE Returns

Eligible for Return, Refund or Replacement within 30 days of receipt | Free Amazon product support included

Recommended Uses For Product Streaming

Brand CKOKC

Model Name K2

Connectivity Technology 2.4 GHz

Connector Type Lightning

See more