

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1297

Introduced by

Representatives Koppelman, Heilman, Heinert, Kasper, Louser

Senators Castaneda, Clemens, Enget, Paulson, Wobbema, Larson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 16.1-01 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to prohibiting approval voting and ranked-choice voting in elections; and
3 to amend and reenact subsection 7 of section 11-09.1-05 and subsection 9 of section
4 40-05.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to home rule powers in counties and
5 cities.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 11-09.1-05 of the North Dakota
8 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 7. Provide for all matters pertaining to county elections, except as to qualifications of
10 electors and the limitations provided under section 2 of this Act.

11 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 16.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
12 and enacted as follows:

13 **Approval voting - Ranked-choice voting - Prohibition.**

14 1. For purposes of this section:

15 a. "Approval voting" means a method in which a qualified elector may vote for all
16 candidates the voter approves of in each race for public office, and the
17 candidates receiving the most votes are elected until all necessary seats are
18 filled in each race.

19 b. "Ranked-choice voting" means a method in which a qualified elector may rank
20 candidates in a race for public office in order of preference, and all submitted
21 ballots are tabulated in multiple rounds following the elimination of a candidate
22 until a single candidate attains a majority of votes.

23 2. Approval voting or ranked-choice voting may not be used in an election held within this
24 state to elect or nominate a candidate to any local, state, or federal elective office.

- 1 3. An ordinance enacted or adopted by a county, city, or other political subdivision,
2 including an ordinance enacted or adopted under a home rule charter, which conflicts
3 with this section is void.

4 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 9 of section 40-05.1-06 of the North Dakota
5 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 6 9. To provide for all matters pertaining to city elections, except as to qualifications of
7 electors and the limitations provided under section 2 of this Act.