



# North Dakota Senate

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## **Senator Brad Bekkedahl**

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**COMMITTEES:**  
Appropriations (Chair)

**March 7, 2025**

## **Senate Bill 2227 Testimony**

### **House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**

#### **Hon. Representative Austen Schauer, Chairman**

Chairman Schauer and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce SB 2227. My name is Brad Bekkedahl, Senator from District 1 in Williston. This bill was requested by Governor Armstrong to accommodate his preferential hiring of retired North Dakota employees to serve in his administration. Some of his senior cabinet officials, under current PERS system statute, would be unable to accept employment without compromising their current retirement pay situation. It is my understanding that there currently exists a provision that allows a retired employee to return to employment without compromising their retirement payments and exempting them from having to continue to pay into the system with this new employment opportunity, if they are returning to employment in a different employer than they retired from. However, if they are returning to the same employer, these exemptions do not exist for them and they would have to suspend their retirement pay and engage in the PERS system payments again. This bill seeks to rectify that condition of employment provision so they would be allowed to return with the same provisions that now exist for other employees returning to state employment. PERS leadership will testify on other impacts related to any actuarial study of the bill. There will be other experts here to testify Chairman Schauer, so I will stand for questions and relinquish the podium for their testimony and input. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation on Senate Bill 2227.