

2025 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1043

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1043

1/16/2025

Relating to the Vice Chairman of the State Water commission.
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9:59 a.m. Chairman Porter called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Ruby,
Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Clarification of language

10:00 a.m. Reice Haase, Director of the Department of Water Resources, testified in favor.
#29159

10:01 a.m. Chairman Porter closed the hearing.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY OF

Reice Haase, Director, Department of Water Resources

Chairman Porter, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee – I am Reice Haase, Director of the Department of Water Resources (DWR). I am here today to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 1043 that is a clean-up of existing Century Code related to selection of a State Water Commission Vice Chairperson.

North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) § 61-02-05 clearly states “The governor is the chairman of the commission. The governor shall designate a vice chairman from the members of the commission.” In contrast, N.D.C.C. § 61-02-08 currently says the “The governor shall serve as chairman, and the commission shall select a member of the commission to serve as vice chairman.” This section is both redundant in regards to its reference to the Governor serving as chairman and contradictory in its directive to who designates the vice chair.

HB 1043 would remove redundant language related to the Governor serving as the Commission’s chair, and it removes contradictory language stating the Commission selects the vice chair, when N.D.C.C. § 61-02-05 says that is the role of the Governor, who also appoints the Water Commission members.

Chairman Porter, and members of the committee, we ask for your support and approval of this Century Code clean-up bill - HB 1043. This concludes my testimony, and I will stand for any questions that you might have.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1043

1/16/2025

Relating to the vice chairman of the state water commission.
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11:17 a.m. Chairman Porter opened meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chairwoman Novak, Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Ruby, Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

11:17 a.m. Representative Olson moved a Do Pass.

11:17 a.m. Representative Anderson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Chairman Todd Porter	Y
Vice Chairman Dick Anderson	Y
Vice Chairwoman Anna Novak	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Austin Foss	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Pat Heinert	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

11:17 a.m. Motion passed 13-0-0.

11:17 a.m. Representative Heinert will carry the bill.

11:18 a.m. Chairman Porter closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1043 ([25.8011.01000](#))

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1043 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1043

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1043
2/20/2025

Relating to the vice chairman of the state water commission.
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9:30 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

Discussion Topics:

- Contradictory directives
- State Water Commission structure

9:30 a.m. Patrick Fridgen, Division Director, Planning & Education of Department of Water Resources, submitted testimony in favor #38139.

9:32 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

9:32 a.m. Senator Enget moved a Do Pass.

9:32 a.m. Senator Beard seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion Passed 7-0-0.

9:32 a.m. Senator Van Oosting will carry the bill.

9:32 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1043 ([25.8011.01000](#))

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1043 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



Testimony in Support of
HB 1043
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
February 20, 2025

TESTIMONY OF

Patrick Fridgen, Division Director, Department of Water Resources

Chairman Patten, and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee – I Patrick Fridgen, Planning and Education Division Director for the Department of Water Resources (DWR). I am here today to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 1043 that is a clean-up of existing Century Code related to selection of a State Water Commission Vice Chairperson.

North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) § 61-02-05 clearly states “The governor is the chairman of the commission. The governor shall designate a vice chairman from the members of the commission.” In contrast, N.D.C.C. § 61-02-08 currently says the “The governor shall serve as chairman, and the commission shall select a member of the commission to serve as vice chairman.” This section is both redundant in regards to its reference to the Governor serving as chairman and contradictory in its directive to who designates the vice chair.

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Chairman Patten, and members of the committee, we ask for your support and approval of this Century Code clean-up bill - HB 1043. This concludes my testimony, and I will stand for any questions that you might have.