

2025 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1138

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1138
1/16/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 21-03-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to bonding elections.

9:01 a.m. Chairman Longmuir called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Donald W. Longmuir, Vice-Chairman Clayton Fegley, Vice-Chairman Jim Jonas, Representatives Macy Bolinske, Patrick R. Hatlestad, Lawrence R. Klemin, Mike Motschenbacher, Mitch Ostlie, Jonathan Warrey, Jayme Davis, LaurieBeth Hager

Absent: Representative Matthew Heilman and Nathan Toman

Discussion Topics:

- Bonding election schedule
- Bonding election voting process

9:03 a.m. Brandy Pyle, North Dakota representative for District 22, introduced the bill and provided testimony # 28531.

9:05 a.m. Michael Howe, North Dakota Secretary of State, testified in favor and provided testimony #29461.

9:11 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher moved a Do Pass.

Representative Hager seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	A
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	A
Representative Jonathan Warrey	Y

House Political Subdivisions Committee
HB 1138
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9:11 a.m. Motion Passed 11-0-2.

Representative Jonas will carry the bill.

9:13 a.m. Chairman Longmuir recessed the meeting.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1138 ([25.0363.01000](#))

Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Longmuir, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1138 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Brandy Pyle

District 22
P.O. Box 337
Casselton, ND 58012-0337
bpyle@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations

HB 1138
Political Subdivision
1.16.2025
9 am

Good morning, Chair Longmuir and Committee. I'm here to introduce HB 1138 for your consideration.

This bill aims to align the timeline for elections following a governing body's decision with the timelines of other types of elections. Currently, the 20-day period for scheduling these elections can sometimes feel like rushing the question, limiting adequate time for consideration and preparation. These bills bring the 20 days to the 64 days, which is what we have in code for other types of elections.

Additionally, Item 4 of the bill updates our election code to bring this process in line with how canvassing is handled for other elections, ensuring consistency and clarity across the board.

In essence, HB 1138 provides a more reasonable and streamlined approach to election scheduling, allowing for a more thoughtful and thorough process.

I have worked with the Secretary of State's office and his staff to bring this bill forward.

I stand for any question.

Thank you.

Brandy L. Pyle



HOUSE BILL NO. 1138

JANUARY 16, 2025

HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS
REPRESENTATIVE DONALD LONGMUIR, CHAIRMAN

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY

MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE

Chairman Longmuir and members of the committee, I am Michael Howe, North Dakota Secretary of State. I am here today in support of HB1138 which seeks to bring the timing of the number of days needed prior to holding a political subdivision bonding election into alignment with the timing of other election requirements provided for in statute.

The Elections Chapter – NDCC 16.1 – requires both candidates and measures that will be brought forward for consideration in an election be filed with the filing office no less than 64 days before a primary, a general, or a special election. These 64 days allows for voters to familiarize themselves with candidates and issues and provides appropriate timing for election officials to prepare for administration of an election.

NDCC 21-03-11, which deals with bond elections for counties, cities, and school districts, is the only section in code related to elections that allows for a time period different from the 64 days required for all other elections. Currently, NDCC 21-03-11 allows that only 20 days pass before an election can be held after the passage of a resolution or filing of a petition. This simply isn't adequate time for election officials to prepare for an election or for voters to seek information related to what they will be asked to vote on.

We believe that creating consistency and uniformity across all elections in North Dakota helps reduce voter confusion and increases public confidence in the process.

We urge your support of HB 1138 and are happy to address any questions you may have.

2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 1138

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1138
3/13/2025

Relating to bonding elections.

11:16 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action
- Uniformity and consistency

11:16 a.m. Representative Pyle, District #22, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #39723.

11:19 a.m. Michael Howe, ND Secretary of State, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41231.

11:22 a.m. Senator Lee moved Do Pass.

11:22 a.m. Senator Castaneda seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

Senator Barta will carry the bill.

11:23 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1138 ([25.0363.01000](#))

State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1138 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Brandy Pyle

District 22
P.O. Box 337
Casselton, ND 58012-0337
bpyle@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations

HB 1138

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In essence, HB 1138 provides a more reasonable and streamlined approach to election scheduling, allowing for a more thoughtful and thorough process.

I have worked with the Secretary of State's office and his staff to bring this bill forward.

I stand for any question.

Thank you.

Brandy L. Pyle



HOUSE BILL NO. 1138

MARCH 13, 2025

SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
SENATOR KRISTEN ROERS, CHAIR

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY

MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE

Chairman Roers and members of the committee, I am Michael Howe, North Dakota Secretary of State. I am here today in support of HB1138 which seeks to bring the timing of the number of days needed prior to holding a political subdivision bonding election into alignment with the timing of other election requirements provided for in statute.

The Elections Chapter – NDCC 16.1 – requires both candidates and measures that will be brought forward for consideration in an election be filed with the filing office no less than 64 days before a primary, a general, or a special election. These 64 days allows for voters to familiarize themselves with candidates and issues and provides appropriate timing for election officials to prepare for administration of an election.

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