

**2025 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR**

**HB 1150**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Industry, Business and Labor Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1150  
1/15/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact three new sections to chapter 12.1-30 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to Sunday closing laws; to amend and reenact section 12.1-30-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to Sunday closing laws and retail agreements; and to provide a penalty.

8:57 a.m. Chairman Warrey opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Warrey, Vice Chairman Ostlie, Vice Chairman Johnson, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Johnson, Kasper, Koppelman, D. Ruby, Schatz, Schauer, Vollmer

### Discussion Topics:

- Rest and recover
- Work/leisure balance
- Blue laws
- Retail hours
- Economic freedom
- Current workers' protection laws

8:57 a.m. Representative Matt Heilman D7, Bismarck, ND. Introduced the bill and provided testimony #29136 and proposed an amendment LC#25.0549.01001, #29272.

9:23 a.m. Representative Jeff Hoverson, District 3, Lutheran Minister, Minot, testified in support.

9:46 a.m. Arik Spencer, President and CEO, Greater North Dakota Chamber (GNDA), testified in opposition and submitted testimony #29273.

9:59 a.m. Mike Rud, Representing the ND Retail Association, testified in opposition.

10:05 a.m. Pete Hanebutt, Director of Public Policy, 10President, ND Farm Bureau, testified in opposition.

10:07 a.m. Cale Dunwoody, Vice President of Public Policy, Fargo Moorehead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in opposition #29130 and 29131.

10:21 a.m. Representative Ruby moved a Do Not pass.

10:21 a.m. Representative Schauer seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jonathan Warrey	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	N
Representative Jim Kasper	N
Representative Ben Koppelman	N
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	N
Representative Austin Schauer	Y
Representative Daniel R. Vollmer	Y

Motion passed 10-4-0.

10:24 a.m. Representative Ruby will carry the bill.

**Additional written testimony:**

Christopher Dodson, Co-Director, ND Catholic Conference, submitted testimony in favor #29113.

Lyndia J. Hoverson, District 3, Minot ND, submitted testimony in favor #29122.

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, submitted testimony in favor #29146.

Ezra Gardner, Bismarck, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28437.

Sylvia Bull, Bismarck, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28681.

Alexandra Deufel, Minot, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28809.

Shawn A. Schafer, Burlington, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28849.

Kristin Nelson, Fargo ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28853.

Chis Freeman, Jamestown, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28920.

RaNae Jochim, Bismarck ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28926.

Michael Bush, Bismarck ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28969.

Kate Herzog, COO, Downtown Business Association of Bismarck ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28970.

Martha M. Misuraca, Minot, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #28982.

Mike Frohlich, Founder/Owner/Head of Brewery Operations, Laughing Sun Brewing Company, submitted testimony in opposition #29028.

Elizabeth Walch, Bismarck ND, submitted testimony in opposition #29033.

Kristin Michels, Minot ND, submitted testimony in opposition #29056.

Scooter Pursley, Executive Director, ND Travel Alliance Partnership, submitted testimony in opposition #29064.

Alissa Adams, COO, West Acres Development, LLP, Fargo, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #29088.

Eric A. Hanson, Fargo, ND submitted testimony in opposition #29093.

Travis F. Batemen, Watford City, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #29096.

Clint Otto, Jamestown, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #29108.

Kimber Hofman, Streeter, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #29109.

Shawn Hoffman, Self Employed Business Owner, Wishek, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #29134.

Kalon M. Gesellchen, Closure for Jesus Ministry, Seale, AL, submitted testimony in opposition #29137.

10:24 a.m. Chairman Warrey closed the hearing.

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1150 ([25.0549.01000](#))**

**Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Warrey, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1150 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

To whom it may concern

I strongly oppose HB1150 to amend and reenact section 12.1-30-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, i feel this is a government overreach and businesses can regulate themselves on this matter.

Thank You,  
Ezra Gardner

Sylvia Bull

Regarding House Bill No. 1150

13 January 2025

To the members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

I urge a strong NO vote on this bill re-litigating the Sunday closing laws. As a Christian, and a local pastor in Bismarck, observing sabbath is an important component of my religious belief and practice. However, there are many other residents of North Dakota who practice other religions (or none!) and who have other texts, traditions, practices, and values that are important to them. This bill presumes that all people should honor and observe a sabbath practice and privileges the Christian observance of Sunday as religious sabbath. By doing so, the State would infringe upon the rights of non-Christian North Dakotans to freely exercise their beliefs. This is wrong.

Additionally, with all the exceptions and different cases listed, it seems to me that all this bill would cause is confusion - for employers, workers, and consumers. That is bad for business and bad for North Dakota.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1150. Please direct your efforts to legislation that serves and benefits the lives of all North Dakotans, irrespective of faith tradition or belief.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Sylvia Bull  
Bismarck

Testimony in opposition to HB 1150

I am opposed to the repeal of the Sunday blue laws, for the following reasons:

1. This is in violation of the religious freedom of Americans as it is an imposition of religion on the population
2. Not everyone is religious, as is their right in the United States of America. This is what makes us free!
3. This is bad for the economy.
4. If someone wants to attend church and can't get Sunday morning off, they can attend services on Saturday.
5. Religious teachings belong in church/temple/mosque or home

Sincerely

Alex Deufel District 40

Shawn Schafer

Regarding House Bill No. 1150

January 13, 2025

To the members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

I urge a strong NO vote on this bill. I was so happy when the ND Blue Laws were finally removed; this feels like a big slap in the face to those that passed the bill to end the old Blue Laws. Why should the State force a business to remain closed until noon on Sunday? Businesses should be free to operate during the hours that make the most sense to them. It isn't fair to those who have their Sabbath on Saturday or those who don't practice any religion to not be allowed to conduct their shopping on Sunday morning. There are many businesses that choose to remain closed on Sunday, I support their right to do so but it's not the States job to force all businesses to do the same. As someone who has a working student in the house, not allowing business to be open before noon on Sunday will put a financial hardship on students. Due to class schedules many students rely on those Sunday morning hours to help them afford gas, food, car payments, clothes, phone, insurance...

Again, I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1150. I believe there are more important things that you should be working on instead of taking away the freedom to shop on Sunday morning. Besides, what sense does it make that a person can buy alcohol until 2 am but can't buy a pair of jeans after 12 midnight.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Schafer  
Burlington, ND

Kristin Nelson

1/13/25

5409 20<sup>th</sup> St South

Fargo, ND District 46

**NO** on HB 1150

Chair Warry, and members of the Industry, Business, and Labor committee. I urge a **DO NOT PASS** on HB 1150. This bill seeks to undo progress our state has made by allowing retail sales on Sundays. The economic hit to the state alone is reason enough to vote no, our state legislators should not be able to dictate to citizens how they spend their time.

Again, please consider a **DO NOT PASS** on HB 1150.

Respectively submitted:

Kristin Nelson

Hello members of the North Dakota Legislature. My name is Chris Freeman, and I have been a resident of North Dakota since 2021, living in South Dakota before that to attend school, and California before that. One of my favorite things about living in North Dakota is the ability to live my life free. North Dakota is the freest state I have ever lived it, and I truly appreciate it.

I work as a registered nurse. Monday-Friday, and as a father of two children under 2 years old, the time I get with them is precious. This includes shopping for clothing, food, and even home improvement to make sure they have a good upbringing. My weekend time is short, and HB1150 would ruin my ability to care for them and my household. My wife and I do all of our shopping on Sunday mornings, this includes things for our household. By reverting back to stores not being able to sell certain items during regular hours, it will hinder our ability to care for our family.

As a Christian myself, I fully appreciate Sunday's and my time with my family. However, by passing HB1150, this is a clear step backwards, and not forwards. As North Dakotans, we must allow people to practice their faith as they see fit. HB1150 is forcing beliefs onto people, which I do not believe is right. North Dakotans already spoke about how they felt about this in 2019, ending Blue Laws. Bringing it back would be an insult to North Dakotans.

I urge you to vote against HB1150, as North Dakotans have already made clear how they feel about this subject. Passing HB1150 is a step backwards and would absolutely harm our State.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Freeman

I strongly oppose this bill and am disappointed that a member of District 32 is a co-sponsor. Our Constitutional first amendment right, which includes the Free Exercise Clause, allows for people to practice religion as they choose. This bill basically tries to infringe on my rights as a person who does not attend church on Sunday mornings. If people don't want to go to businesses at that time that's their decision, but no one should have the right to tell me what I can or can't do on my Sunday mornings. So disappointed this is even being considered. I wish ND legislators would focus on the needs of this state, including increasing disability services, and stop wasting all of our time on these clearly religion-based bills.

**First Amendment Free Exercise Clause**

- Protects the right of citizens to practice their religion as they choose, as long as it doesn't violate public morals or a compelling government interest.

RaNae Jochim

South Bismarck resident

District 32

Leave it up to the business to decide something as basic as operating hours. Keep big government out of it.

When the blue laws still existed and I needed something from the store on a Sunday morning, I'd make the 5-minute drive to a Moorhead Hornbacher's, not wait until a Fargo location opened.



House Industry Business and Labor  
Chair and Committee Members

HB 1150 Oppose

The Downtown Business Association of Bismarck represents over 200 members with 9,000 employees in North Dakota's second largest employment district.

Our board of directors strongly recommends a DO NOT PASS recommendation and are in opposition to HB 1150, restricting business' right to operate on Sundays before noon. Small local businesses are already facing a number of issues to stay operating and leveraging times and days that customers can support them is paramount. Our businesses also have hundreds of shift workers that don't work a weekday 9-5 schedule, particularly medical staff in our health and medical district, and emergency service workers. Our community continues to also shift taxes from property to sales tax, a sales tax which is also supporting our police, fire, 911 and transit services. Businesses are paying more in sales tax to support the community, and to consider reducing the hours of operation is not only detrimental to the business community, but the community as a whole.

We strongly encourage your DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB 1150 and encourage opposition to this bill at all levels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Herzog".

Kate Herzog, COO  
Chief Operating Officer  
Downtown Business Association of Bismarck

President  
Downtown Bismarck Community Foundation

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

I would like to submit my opinion on the North Dakota Blue Law. I oppose this action for a very basic reason. Keep religion out of government. Businesses in ND should be allowed to operate when they want, and customers should be able to visit those businesses when it's convenient for them. Any business owner who does not want to be open on Sunday for religious reasons is certainly allowed to close. Their loss of income should not be a reason to force another business to close, that should strictly be a business decision by each and every individual business owner.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my reasons for opposing this bill.

Respectfully,  
Martha Misuraca

House Industry Business, and Labor Committee Chairman Warrey and Committee Members,

I write to you in opposition to HB 1150. As a local business owner, having a vibrant business community is vital to the growth of our cities and keeping young people in the area. Bringing back the Sunday closing laws flies right in the face of a vibrant, diverse business community. Business owners are not forced to open on Sundays, and employees have ample opportunity to find jobs in the area to fit their needs. At Laughing Sun Brewing Company, we accommodate staff with lots of different needs in their schedule, and I know most others that would like to keep their valuable employees around would do the same.

I urge a NO vote on HB1150. The citizens and business owners of North Dakota would like to have freedom from regulating our Sunday mornings.

Sincerely,

Mike Frohlich  
Founder/Owner/Head of Brewery Operations  
Laughing Sun Brewing Company  
1023 E Front Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
mike@laughingsunbrewing.com

**Elizabeth Walch**

**House Bill 1150**

**January 14, 2025**

To the members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

**I urge a strong NO vote on House Bill 1150** regarding the Sunday closing laws (aka blue laws). I am both a Christian, and a local pastor in Bismarck, and while I believe observing sabbath is important in my faith and religious practice, there are many other residents of North Dakota who practice other religions (or none!) They too have other texts, traditions, practices, and values that are important to them. This bill presumes that all people should honor and observe a sabbath practice on Sunday from 12 midnight until 12 noon which privileges the Christian observance of Sunday as religious sabbath. By doing this, the State is infringing upon the rights of non-Christian North Dakotans to freely exercise their beliefs. This is wrong. Additionally, with all the exceptions and different cases listed, it seems to me that all this bill would cause is confusion - for employers, workers, and consumers. That is bad for business and bad for North Dakota.

Again, I urge you to vote **NO on House Bill 1150**. Please direct your efforts to legislation that serves and benefits the lives of all North Dakotans, irrespective of faith tradition or belief.

In Christ,

Reverend Beth Walch, Bismarck

## Testimony in Opposition to HB 1150

I am opposed to the reenactment of Sunday closing laws for the following reasons:

- When I was younger and limited to working weekend hours, I really could have used those extra 3-4 hours Sunday mornings for additional income. I know many young people now are likely looking to lose income should this limit be reinstated.
- Restricting business hours is an elimination of choice, and in some cases a likely loss of revenue, for business owners. North Dakota often boasts about being business-friendly, which this is not.
- The repeal of the Sunday “Blue Law” was voted on by the majority of citizens in a general election several years ago. Legislators trying to repeal a citizen initiative is a huge overreach on their part.

The choice to be open on a Sunday morning should be left to business owners. Employees have the right to make scheduling arrangements with their employers or find employment that better meets their needs.

Sincerely,

Kristin Michels

Resident of District 3

# North Dakota

## Travel Alliance Partnership

**Testimony of Scooter Pursley  
Executive Director, ND Travel Alliance Partnership  
In Opposition to HB 1150  
January 15, 2025**

Chair Warrey and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Scooter Pursley and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Travel Alliance Partnership (TAP). TAP is a coalition of travel industry stakeholders, including convention and visitors bureaus, state attractions, businesses and others who help make tourism the third-largest industry in North Dakota's. On behalf of the tourism industry and its partners, TAP asks that you oppose HB 1150, a bill looking to reimpose restrictions of the North Dakota Blue Law relaxed by legislative action in 2019.

From an economic standpoint alone, North Dakota would stand to lose some of the \$3.3 billion spent annually by visitors who come to the state on the weekend and spend Sunday mornings shopping before returning home. Visitors to our cities for other events, like youth tournaments, would not be able to make a run to the store between games.

North Dakota's visitor economy grows when more people travel to and within the state, and visitors spend more time within a destination. They arrive with expectations that North Dakota offers the same conveniences as every other state in the nation, including shopping on Sunday mornings. If stores are closed, visitors leave frustrated perhaps not to return in the future.

There have been no studies showing that the demise of the nation's last Blue Law has had a negative effect on the state. In fact, longer hours of operation have led to increased spending and tax collection at businesses that choose to open before noon on Sundays.

Early Sunday opening is a choice, not a requirement. Noon Sunday opening would be a requirement, not a choice. The choice is simple. Sunday opening is a matter best left up to individual business owners and North Dakota consumers and not the state.

TAP asks that you consider defeating HB 1150.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Scooter Pursley** | Executive Director  
*North Dakota Travel Alliance Partnership*  
701-355-4458  
[NDtravelalliance.com](http://NDtravelalliance.com)  
[spursley@clearwatercommunications.net](mailto:spursley@clearwatercommunications.net)

January 14, 2025

Dear Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

West Acres Regional Shopping Center, the most visited shopping destination in North Dakota with over 1 million square feet of retail space and 6.5 million visitors annually, respectfully urges your **DO NOT PASS** recommendation on HB 1150.

This bill would impose unnecessary restrictions on a business's right to operate in a manner that best serves both the business and its customers. Since the repeal of Blue Laws in 2019, West Acres has welcomed over 780,000 visitors shopping before noon on Sundays, demonstrating strong consumer demand for early Sunday shopping hours.

Currently, our tenants—ranging from small local businesses to national retailers—retain flexibility to determine their Sunday hours as a part of their lease process. While the vast majority choose to open early to meet customer demand, we respect the single tenant within the mall that remains closed on Sundays, as they make decisions aligned with their business and family priorities. HB 1150 would take away this important autonomy, forcing uniformity where choice has proven beneficial for all parties involved. Our data clearly shows that both businesses and consumers benefit from the existing flexibility. Enacting HB 1150 would disregard these needs and restrict the ability of business owners to adapt to what works best for their individual circumstances and customer base.

We strongly urge the committee to oppose HB 1150 and recommend a **DO NOT PASS** vote to preserve the rights of businesses and uphold the choices consumers clearly value.

Thank you for considering our perspective.

Sincerely,

Alissa Adams, COO, West Acres Development, LLP



Brad Schlossman, CEO, West Acres Development, LLP



**WEST ACRES**

West Acres Development, LLP  
3902 13th Ave. S. Suite 3717  
Fargo, ND 58103-7512

(701) 282-2222  
westacres.com

Hello!

I would like to weigh in on the idea of bringing back the Blue Laws, as proposed in HB 1150. I am strongly opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- Adding these laws and restrictions removes choice. Businesses should be free to operate within whatever hours suit their business.
- Some people need Sunday mornings to do their shopping. Other times may not work.
- The state should not dictate which hours a business can operate. Employees will still have to work, regardless of businesses being open or closed to the public.
- This feels like a huge step backward for

our state by restricting choices and freedoms of the residents.

1/14/2025

To: North Dakota Legislature-69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, Industry, Business, & Labor Committee  
From: Travis Bateman

Re: OPPOSITION to HB 1150

Chairman Warrey and members of the committee,

Greetings,

I sent this written testimony to you in opposition to HB 1150.

The "Blue Laws" were repealed in 2019 and brought North Dakota into the new century. This is one bill of several this session where it appears that some of our elected officials wish to override the will of the majority and utilize public officer to sequester what was already asked for and decided upon. And not very long ago at that.

If a business wants to be open at their regular hours on a Sunday, that is THEIR CHOICE.

If a business wants to be closed during regular hours and open later or be closed for the entirety of the day, that is THEIR CHOICE.

We do not need the state legislature to decide this or dictate when someone can go grocery shopping, get vehicle parts as they work on their car at home on their day off, or any other business that would be negatively impacted if this otherwise asinine law were to be reinstated.

Let us, the people, decide what we want to do on or with our Sundays.

Let the business owners decide how they want to operate on Sundays.

Let the legislative decision set in 2019 stand.

And while we are at it, let's tell Walmart and the other stores that were open 24/7 before COVID that we want them to be back open 24/7! Not everyone works a Monday-Friday 9-5 job.

Please give HB 1150 a DO NOT PASS.

Thank you,

Travis Bateman  
Watford City, ND

Another bill where our government tells us how to live. Live free, except on Sundays, before noon. I thought Republicans believed a light-handed government?

To North Dakota Lawmakers:

I want to express my opposition to the proposal to reinstate Sunday Closing Laws in our state. What is the expressed purpose for doing this? If it is for the purpose of encouraging church attendance, I see that as an intrusion of government into religion. The First Amendment says, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; . . .*" I believe that principle should be applied at the State level. If church attendance has dropped since 2019 when the law was repealed, are there statistics that show that it was due to stores being open during church service time? If people attend church only because they couldn't go shopping at that time, how sincere are they in their faith? A law to close stores doesn't make anyone a Christian. Only a deep, personal faith in Jesus Christ makes that difference in someone's life. If someone has that kind of experience, they will probably be in church even if the stores are open. To be open or closed should be left up to the business management.

Please do not confuse what the Bible calls the Sabbath with what many Christians call the Lord's Day. According to the Bible, Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, commonly called Saturday. (see Exodus 20:8-11) Sunday, the first day of the week, is not the Sabbath. It never has been. The Bible does not authorize any change. God pronounced the seventh day holy and blessed it. (see Genesis 2:1-3) He never blessed any other day.

Thank you for considering these thoughts.

Sincerely,  
Kimber Hoffman



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo  
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

**To:** House Industry, Business and Labor Committee  
**From:** Christopher Dodson, Co-Director  
**Date:** Jan 15, 2025  
**Re:** House Bill 1150 - Sunday Morning Closing

Plato noted that when it comes to lawmaking prudence is chief among the virtues. Every public policy proposal ought to be judged by its probable long-run consequences and not merely its temporary advantage or popularity. Moreover, a presumption should rest in favor of retaining the wisdom of our predecessors.

In this respect, allowing all commerce on Sunday morning is an aberration in North Dakota. It is not too late to right a wrong for the sake of families and the common good.

There is a common misperception that the purpose of the prior law and this bill is to impose times of worship and adherence to religious doctrine. This is not the purpose of this bill or the Conference's reason for supporting it. The purpose of this bill is to reasonably restore a common period of rest and recreation for everyone.

In fact, the concept of a Sabbath itself rests on this idea. "The memory and the experience of the Sabbath constitute a barrier against becoming slaves to work, whether voluntarily or by force, and against every kind of exploitation, hidden or evident. In fact, the Sabbath rest . . . was instituted in defense of the poor. Its function is also that of freeing people from the antisocial degeneration of human work."<sup>1</sup>

Rest from work and commerce is, therefore, a human right. Moreover, a common day of rest allows people to tend to family, cultural, social, and religious life. Only when communities set aside time devoted to these functions can human persons truly prosper and develop. The great 20th-century philosopher, Joseph Pieper, warned against the encroaching danger of a world of "total work." He wrote: "More and more . . . the world of work is becoming our entire world; it threatens to engulf us completely, and the demands of the world of work become greater and greater, till at last they make a 'total' claim upon the whole human nature."<sup>2</sup>

A free market is a good thing, but without reasonable parameters that place it at the service of the human person, the economy can become a powerful force that removes true choice and freedom. Most often it is small businesses and the poor who are hurt the most.

103 South Third Street  
 Suite 10  
 Bismarck ND 58501  
 701-223-2519  
[ndcatholic.org](http://ndcatholic.org)  
[ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org](mailto:ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org)

The people who helped make North Dakota the great state it is understood this. Their collective experience taught them that some things are more important than profit and convenience. We owe it to them and future generations to restore this part of the North Dakota way of life.

We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on House Bill 1150.

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<sup>1</sup> *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, No. 258.

<sup>2</sup> Josef Pieper, *The Philosophical Act*, 78.

House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

Please vote in favor of House Bill 1150 in bringing our traditional blue laws back into our state, laws that were in our nation for hundreds of years. They never hurt anyone. The principle of taking a day of rest is not biased towards any religion but protects everyone of all faiths. It protects businesses, by allowing them to have a day off without worrying about competition not doing the same. They help employees take a day of rest, which is healthy. There was never any good reason to take the blue laws away. Tradition is innocent until proven guilty, and the blue laws have not been proven to cause any harm.

Thank you,

Lydia Hoverson  
District 3 resident



## Coalition Letter of Opposition – HB 1150

Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Warrey and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

On behalf of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, and the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong opposition to House Bill 1150. This bill, proposing significant restrictive Sunday closing laws, would harm businesses, limit consumer choice, and undermine economic growth in our region.

We believe that this bill, if enacted, would have a negative impact on our local economy, workforce, and overall quality of life. We represent a diverse range of businesses that rely on the flexibility to operate seven days a week to meet the needs of our customers and employees. HB 1150's proposed restrictions on Sunday sales would create unnecessary barriers for businesses and consumers alike.

The bill's extensive list of prohibited items, from clothing and appliances to sporting goods and electronics, would severely limit consumer choice and force many residents to shop across state lines or online, taking revenue away from North Dakota businesses. Additionally, this bill's restrictions would cause employees to lose valuable work hours and earning potential.

HB 1150 causes an undue burden on business by dictating how they should operate, and infringes upon the freedom of individuals to choose how they spend their Sundays. We, the undersigned organizations, along with the FMWF Chamber, urge you to oppose HB 1150. We respectfully urge you to instead consider policies that promote economic vitality and respect the needs of North Dakota's businesses and residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, and the undersigned organizations and individuals:

Adams Incorporated  
Azurance Group, Inc  
Beyond Realty  
Chef's Table Catering  
City of West Fargo  
Cornerstone Bank  
Dabbert Custom Homes  
E4 Insurance Services, LLC  
Eide Bailly LLP  
Fargo Jet Center  
Great Plains Hospitality  
H2M Brand Haus  
Heat Transfer Warehouse  
Individual - Dan Sobolik

Individual - Jeremy Kramer  
Individual - Karson Spiess  
Individual - Shannon David Misialek  
Industrial Builders Inc.  
Jasper Hotel  
Marge's Diner  
Right at Home  
ROERS  
SAF Enterprises  
SCHEELS  
The Boiler Room  
TrueNorth Steel  
WE Ortho  
West Acres Development, LLP



## Letter in Opposition – HB 1150

Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Warrey and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 1150.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. We believe that if enacted, this bill would directly harm and restrict businesses operating not only throughout our region but across the entire state. Burdensome mandates and laws such as this are detrimental to the vibrancy and vitality of the business community and local economies.

In today's fast-paced and evolving business landscape, decisions regarding a business's operations are best made by the businesses themselves. Localized and autonomous decision-making ensures that businesses can meet the ever-changing needs of their customers and employees. In order to compete effectively in a global marketplace, we must avoid creating unnecessary barriers that infringe upon a business's freedom to operate.

Furthermore, the list of prohibited items in this bill creates disparities among industries and severely limits consumers' ability to purchase the goods and services they need and want. This prohibition will likely drive North Dakota residents to shop across state lines or online, diverting crucial revenue from local businesses and reducing local sales tax revenue.

As this committee considers this bill, we urge you to recognize the unnecessary impacts it would have on businesses, consumers, and communities alike. In addition to this testimony, we have also attached a coalition letter signed by a number of our members. We respectfully urge this committee to give the bill a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration on this critical matter and your support for North Dakota's business community.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

In Opposition to House Bill No. 1150

House Industry Business and Labor Chair and Committee Members,

As a citizen of North Dakota, a business owner, and a devoted Christian I oppose HB 1150 for the following reasons:

It will hurt family businesses - After COVID, many businesses are struggling, especially the smaller family businesses. Sunday is when everybody does their shopping and it will hurt these businesses to force them to close for half of the busiest day of the week.

Religious freedom – I’m a devout Christian, but I know many people in North Dakota who are of other faiths. Do I think laws should be made to give preference to their religious practices? No, I don’t want their religion pressed on me by law and I don’t want my beliefs pressed on them by law.

The American Constitution - America became a great nation because of it’s founding principles contained in the Constitution. The Pilgrims and many of the other settlers of America had experienced religion being pushed upon them by law in other countries, and that was why many of them came to America because it offered freedom to each person to practice their religion according to the dictates of their conscience. No single religion was to be the religion of the state. The Founding Fathers were wise enough to put this as the very first amendment in the Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” They had seen first hand what the result would be if religious practices were mandated by law.

The Bible – Since this is a bill based on the Christian religion I think it is fitting to consider that the Bible nowhere mandates the keeping of Sunday as the Sabbath. History shows that this became an established tradition of the Christian religion several hundred years after Christ’s time. There are many Christians who still keep the Sabbath on Saturday, the seventh day of the week. This is actually commanded in the Bible; but I don’t believe laws should be made that everybody in North Dakota should stop working on Saturday, just because there are Christians who keep that as the Sabbath. The laws of the state should protect people’s ability to practice their religion, but not force everybody around them to practice it with them, under penalty of a class B misdemeanor. This is not the freedom of religion that the Founding Fathers of America fought for!

Something to note – Thousands of people from other states are hearing about this bill that is being considered in North Dakota. I live in ND but didn’t know about it until a friend in another state contacted me to ask if it was real. There are national influencers on social media that have found out about it and are opposed to it and they are spreading the news across the whole United States and even to other countries. So a lot of eyes are on North Dakota right now. I didn’t know if the North Dakota legislature was aware of this or not.

As a citizen and business owner in North Dakota I strongly encourage you to vote NO on this proposed bill.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Hoffman  
Wishek, ND



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Matt Heilman

District 7  
5501 Flatrock Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58503-8929  
[mheilman@ndlegis.gov](mailto:mheilman@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Education  
Political Subdivisions

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Warrey and members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

I am Representative Matt Heilman from North Dakota's seventh legislative district in Bismarck. I come before you today to testify in favor of HB 1150. This legislation is to undo the repeal of HB 1097 from the 2019 Legislative Session. Many have asked why the bill language is a bit odd and that is because this was existing state law prior to the repeal. Throughout the bill it explicitly lays out who is restricted and who is not. What prompted me to introduce this legislation was an article from Fr. Dominic Bouck at the University of Mary. Fr. Bouck wrote a great article in 2019 about how it was a mistake for North Dakota to repeal blue laws. Prior to reading his article, I did not know how critical blue laws are. There are numerous benefits to having blue laws and I will also address some of the criticisms.

The first benefit to blue laws is rest and recovery. Employees are working many long and exhausting hours throughout the week. Employees having additional time to rest can improve their mental health, which is a big problem in 2025, and their overall productivity. I have experienced this before as a worker and I know many others have as well. I firmly believe our purpose in life goes beyond working and not knowing rest.

The second benefit is that it incentivizes community and family time. People will have more time set aside to engage with their family members and engage in different community activities. We live in a culture that is hyper focused on capitalism, material wealth and looking at most issues through a purely economic lens. There are more important matters in life than

just a balance sheet. To be clear, I am not against capitalism at all. It has benefited us a lot but there is a balance between work and leisure.

The third benefit is for people who are religious. The bill lists the Sabbath as Sunday or a person who in good faith observes a day other than Sunday as the Sabbath. I worked retail as my first job and worked retail before and after the blue laws were repealed in 2019. Anybody who has worked retail can tell you that asking for Sunday off or merely Sunday morning off is no easy task. We live in one of the most prosperous places in the entire world. People should not have to jump hurdles to practice their religion. It is unreasonable, unfair, and not charitable to tell people to simply find another job or to deal with it.

One of the other benefits of blue laws is to help address the workforce shortage. Aside from "property tax" and "school choice," workforce shortage is probably the term I hear the most in politics. This is not an issue solved overnight. Generally speaking, if we want to attract more workers, we need to be offering better wages, benefits and policies that empower the working class.

There are some drawbacks to this legislation. One of those drawbacks is the revenue being lost for different businesses. I looked up the operating hours of a retail chain in Bismarck and they are open 82 hours for all seven days combined. If this bill were to pass, they would be down to 80 hours in a week. I believe this is a small sacrifice to empower the working class to enjoy the benefits of a few hours off every Sunday.

The other criticism of blue laws is customer convenience. There may be some inconveniences, but the convenience of having time to rest, be with family, and practice religion is far more valuable than the convenience of shopping for a watch on a Sunday morning.

Many have addressed concerns over the different businesses impacted by this bill. We could probably nitpick the bill for a long time over the different businesses impacted. However, section three allows many types of businesses to operate in their usual manner. I am open to amendments and I'm sure there are groups who have amendments to offer.

It is important for people to rest, recover, spend time with family, and to practice their religion. I will leave you with this quote from Josef Pieper which he wrote in *Leisure, the Basis of Culture*: “Of course the world of work begins to become—threatens to become—our only world, to the exclusion of all else. The demands of the working world grow ever more total, grasping ever more completely the whole of human existence.”

January 15, 2025 @6AM, CST

To Whom it May Concern:

I, Kalon M. Gesellchen, native of Goodrich, North Dakota and part-time resident of the same, would like to, along with my wife, Danna R. Gesellchen, voice our opposition to the Sunday Blue laws/closing bill. We believe that the Bible teaches that the seventh-day is the true “Sabbath of the Lord thy God” (Exodus 20: 8-11), and was instituted in the beginning, at Creation. (Genesis 2:1-3). The seventh-day was the day honored by Jesus Himself even in His death by resting on the seventh day, and there is no Scripture evidence that He changed the day of the Sabbath before or after His resurrection. ( Luke 23: 54-56, 24:1) The seventh-day is the Sabbath kept by the Apostles many years after the resurrection. ( Acts 17:2, Acts 13:42, 44 -note the Gentiles honored the Sabbath as well, not just Jews.)

We believe that this bill is dangerously close to the elimination of the separation of church and state. We believe, in fact, that this bill will bring church and state together and the enforcement of a particular day by civil government is a violation of the laws of God and is unconstitutional as well. In the constitution, we are guaranteed the freedom of religion. This bill threatens this basic freedom.

Protestants from Europe fled the oppression of the Roman Catholic church, which forced its beliefs through civil powers upon all, especially during the Dark Ages, persecuting with the rack, the stake, the guillotine all who opposed and stood for freedom of conscience. Protestants came to the “New World”, to establish this great country on the foundations of religious freedom—freedom of conscience; the right to worship according to convictions, not coercions. This bill is taking a huge step BACK to those religious oppressions.

This nation was founded upon two great principles: Republicanism, which gives every individual “inalienable rights”, which are in the foundation principles of our Constitution. Second, Protestantism, which at its foundation gives everyone the freedom to worship according to the dictates of conscience.

Sincerely,

Kalon M. Gesellchen

*Kalon M. Gesellchen*

Danna R. Gesellchen

*Danna R. Gesellchen*



### Testimony in Support of House Bill 1150

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
January 15, 2025

Dear Chairman Warrey and honorable members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Mark Jorritsma, and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1150 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

HB 1150 proposes that Sunday Closing Laws (SCLs) be introduced in the State of North Dakota. When one hears about a proposal such as this, the initial reaction is often negative, because one immediately thinks about how such laws could be restrictive and possibly interfere with the freedom of business operations.

We maintain that SCLs are not an infringement on business interests any more than numerous other laws in our Century Code. For example, we currently require restaurants to meet food handling requirements, businesses to obtain required permits and licenses, liquor stores to comply with requirements related to the sales of alcoholic beverages, and many other laws. One can easily make the case that many if not most of these restrict business operations and may often cause a loss of revenue. However, they are accepted because *they are in the greater interest of the wellbeing of North Dakota citizens*. We would assert that SCLs are similar.

Second, it is sometimes stated that there is a loss of revenue or competitive edge with SCLs, depending on whether a business's competitors must also comply with SCLs. Since the proposed SCLs would be statewide, we anticipate that there would be few significant competitive losses, except perhaps in certain cases where communities border surrounding states. In 2024 there were 37 states that had some form of SCLs.<sup>1</sup> Quite a few countries also have SCLs, including rather liberal socialist-leaning countries such as the Netherlands, Denmark, and Canada.<sup>2</sup> If we put SCLs into law, we would be the rule rather than the exception, and competitive impacts would not be as significant as might be first believed.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/blue-laws-by-state>

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue\\_law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_law)

Finally, it is often asserted that SLCs violate separation of church and state. The landmark Supreme court case *McGowan v. Maryland*<sup>3</sup> effectively ruled that this was not the case and subsequent other Supreme Court cases supported this judgement.<sup>4</sup> Thus, historical jurisprudence supports the application of SCLs.

With that said, we need to be honest and recognize that just because something may not cause harm or violate legal precedent, does not mean it should be enacted. So, why should we change the law to implement SCLs?

We believe that the wellbeing of North Dakotans depends on many more factors than the chance to work a few more hours or get a particular good or service on a Sunday. SLCs benefit North Dakota society at large by:

- Encouraging time spent with family and friends, thereby strengthening the foundation of our society;
- Allowing employees to exercise their religious liberty to attend church services, particularly in cases where the employer would otherwise frown upon it;
- Providing economic predictability via a regular day of rest for workers;
- Providing a day of rest, which is both biblically and pragmatically wise in allowing employees to be renewed and rejuvenated; and
- Protecting workers from unreasonable work scheduling, where there is dramatic power imbalance in the worker-employer relationship.

There is no doubt that SCLs can be controversial, but based upon historical precedent, minimal economic impacts, legal precedent, and considering all the benefits of SCLs, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action supports HB 1150. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Mark Jorritsma  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action

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<sup>3</sup> *McGowan v. Maryland*, 366 U.S. 420 (1961)

<sup>4</sup> *Gallagher v. Crown Kosher Super Market of Massachusetts, Inc.*, 366 U.S. 617 (1961). *Braunfeld v. Brown*, 366 U.S. 599 (1961). *Two Guys from Harrison-Allentown, Inc. v. McGinley*, 366 U.S. 582 (1961)

25.0549.01001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Representative Heilman  
January 14, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1150

Introduced by

Representatives Heilman, Hoverson, J. Johnson, Meier, Schatz

Senators Clemens, Luick

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact three new sections to chapter 12.1-30 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to Sunday closing laws; to amend and reenact section 12.1-30-04 of the  
3 North Dakota Century Code, relating to Sunday closing laws and retail agreements; and to  
4 provide a penalty for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 12.1-30 of the North  
5 Dakota Century Code, relating to time off for rest or worship on Sunday or the day of Sabbath;  
6 and to provide a penalty.

### 7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

8 ~~— SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 12.1-30 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~  
9 ~~and enacted as follows:~~  
10 ~~— Business or labor on Sunday – Exemptions – Classification of offenses.~~  
11 ~~— 1. Except as otherwise provided in sections 2 and 3 of this Act, it is a class B~~  
12 ~~misdemeanor for any person between the hours of twelve midnight and twelve noon~~  
13 ~~on Sunday to:~~  
14 ~~— a. Engage in or conduct business or labor for profit in the usual manner and~~  
15 ~~location.~~  
16 ~~— b. Operate a place of business open to the public.~~  
17 ~~— c. Authorize or direct that person's employees or agents to take action prohibited~~  
18 ~~under this section.~~  
19 ~~— 2. The prohibition in subsection 1 does not apply to a person who in good faith observes~~  
20 ~~a day other than Sunday as the Sabbath, if that person refrains from engaging in or~~  
21 ~~conducting business or labor for profit and closes the place of business to the public~~

1           ~~between the hours of twelve midnight and twelve noon on the day observed as the~~  
2           ~~Sabbath.~~

3       ~~— 3. The attorney general, a state's attorney, a mayor, a city manager, or a city attorney~~  
4           ~~may petition a district court, for the district where a violation is occurring, to enjoin a~~  
5           ~~violation in this section.~~

6       ~~— SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 12.1 30 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~  
7       ~~and enacted as follows:~~

8       ~~— **Items prohibited from sale or rental on Sundays.**~~

9       ~~— Except for items sold at hobby shows, craft shows, fairs, exhibits, occasional rummage~~  
10       ~~sales, including garage sales or other sales for which a sales tax permit is not required, and~~  
11       ~~tourist attractions that derive at least fifty percent of the attraction's annual gross sales from~~  
12       ~~seasonal or tourist customers, the sale or rental of any of the following items between the hours~~  
13       ~~of twelve midnight and twelve noon on Sunday is prohibited:~~

14       ~~— 1. Clothing other than work gloves and infant supplies.~~

15       ~~— 2. Clothing accessories.~~

16       ~~— 3. Wearing apparel other than that sold to a transient traveler under emergency~~  
17       ~~conditions.~~

18       ~~— 4. Footwear.~~

19       ~~— 5. Headwear.~~

20       ~~— 6. Home, business, office, or outdoor furniture.~~

21       ~~— 7. Kitchenware.~~

22       ~~— 8. Kitchen utensils.~~

23       ~~— 9. China.~~

24       ~~— 10. Home appliances.~~

25       ~~— 11. Stoves.~~

26       ~~— 12. Refrigerators.~~

27       ~~— 13. Air conditioners.~~

28       ~~— 14. Electric fans.~~

29       ~~— 15. Radios.~~

30       ~~— 16. Television sets.~~

31       ~~— 17. Washing machines.~~

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- 1    ~~18. Dryers.~~
- 2    ~~19. Cameras.~~
- 3    ~~20. Hardware other than emergency plumbing, heating, cooling, or electrical repair or~~  
4       ~~replacement parts and equipment.~~
- 5    ~~21. Tools other than manually driven hand tools.~~
- 6    ~~22. Jewelry.~~
- 7    ~~23. Precious or semiprecious stones.~~
- 8    ~~24. Silverware.~~
- 9    ~~25. Watches.~~
- 10   ~~26. Clocks.~~
- 11   ~~27. Luggage.~~
- 12   ~~28. Motor vehicles other than the daily rental of vehicles by businesses whose sole activity~~  
13       ~~is automobile rental.~~
- 14   ~~29. Musical instruments.~~
- 15   ~~30. The sale of aural or video recordings, records, or tapes. Rental of these items is~~  
16       ~~permitted.~~
- 17   ~~31. Toys other than those customarily sold as novelties or souvenirs.~~
- 18   ~~32. Mattresses.~~
- 19   ~~33. Bed coverings.~~
- 20   ~~34. Household linens.~~
- 21   ~~35. Floor coverings.~~
- 22   ~~36. Lamps.~~
- 23   ~~37. Draperies.~~
- 24   ~~38. Blinds.~~
- 25   ~~39. Curtains.~~
- 26   ~~40. Mirrors.~~
- 27   ~~41. Cloth piece goods.~~
- 28   ~~42. Lawnmowers.~~
- 29   ~~43. Sporting or recreational goods other than those sold or rented on the premises where~~  
30       ~~sports or recreational activities are conducted.~~
- 31   ~~44. Paint and building and lumber supplies.~~

1 — ~~SECTION 3. A new section to chapter 12.1-30 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~  
2 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

3 — ~~**Businesses allowed to operate on Sunday – Limitations.**~~

4 — ~~Subject to the limitations of this section and section 2 of this Act, a business specified in this~~  
5 ~~section may operate in the business's usual manner, location, and for its usual purpose. The~~  
6 ~~businesses authorized under this section to operate on Sunday include:~~

7 — ~~1. Restaurants, cafeterias, or other prepared food service organizations.~~

8 — ~~2. Hotels, motels, and other lodging facilities.~~

9 — ~~3. Hospitals and nursing homes, including the sale of giftware on the premises.~~

10 — ~~4. Dispensaries of drugs and medicines.~~

11 — ~~5. Ambulance and burial services.~~

12 — ~~6. Generation and distribution of electric power, water, steam, natural gas, oil, or other~~  
13 ~~fuel used as a necessary utility.~~

14 — ~~7. Distribution of gas, oil, and other fuels.~~

15 — ~~8. Telephone, telegraph, and messenger services.~~

16 — ~~9. Heating, refrigeration, and cooling services.~~

17 — ~~10. Railroad, bus, trolley, subway, taxi, and limousine services.~~

18 — ~~11. Water, air, and land transportation services and attendant facilities.~~

19 — ~~12. Cold storage warehouse.~~

20 — ~~13. Ice manufacturing and distribution facilities and services.~~

21 — ~~14. Minimal maintenance of equipment and machinery.~~

22 — ~~15. Plant and industrial protection services.~~

23 — ~~16. Industries where continuous processing or manufacturing is required by the very~~  
24 ~~nature of the process involved.~~

25 — ~~17. Newspaper publication and distribution.~~

26 — ~~18. Newsstands.~~

27 — ~~19. Radio and television broadcasting.~~

28 — ~~20. Motion picture, theatrical, and musical performances.~~

29 — ~~21. Motor vehicle service stations that sell motor fuel and motor oil, and which customarily~~  
30 ~~provide daily repair services or products for any of the following systems or parts of a~~  
31 ~~motor vehicle:~~

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- 1 ~~a. Air conditioning system.~~
- 2 ~~b. Batteries.~~
- 3 ~~c. Electrical system.~~
- 4 ~~d. Engine cooling system.~~
- 5 ~~e. Exhaust system.~~
- 6 ~~f. Fuel system.~~
- 7 ~~g. Tires and tubes.~~
- 8 ~~h. Emergency work necessary for the safe and lawful operation of the motor~~
- 9 ~~vehicle.~~
- 10 ~~22. Athletic and sports events.~~
- 11 ~~23. Parks, beaches, and recreational facilities.~~
- 12 ~~24. Scenic, historic, and tourist attractions.~~
- 13 ~~25. Amusement centers, fairs, zoos, and museums.~~
- 14 ~~26. Libraries.~~
- 15 ~~27. Educational lectures, forums, and exhibits.~~
- 16 ~~28. Service organizations including the USO and YMCA.~~
- 17 ~~29. Coin-operated laundry and drycleaning facilities.~~
- 18 ~~30. Food storage operated by an owner or manager in addition to not more than six~~
- 19 ~~employees working in the store at one time on Sunday; however, the governing body~~
- 20 ~~of a city or county may, by ordinance, increase the number of employees allowed to~~
- 21 ~~work in a store at one time on a Sunday.~~
- 22 ~~31. Bait shops for the sale of live bait and fishing tackle.~~
- 23 ~~32. Floral nurseries.~~
- 24 ~~33. Christmas tree stands.~~
- 25 ~~34. Hobby shows, craft shows, fairs, and exhibits.~~
- 26 ~~35. Occasional rummage sales, including garage sales or other sales for which a sales tax~~
- 27 ~~permit is not required.~~
- 28 ~~36. Community festivals licensed or authorized by the governing body of a city or the~~
- 29 ~~board of county commissioners.~~
- 30 ~~37. Premises licensed to dispense beer and alcoholic beverages within the limits~~
- 31 ~~prescribed in section 5-02-05.~~

1 ~~38. Credit approval services, lodging and travel reservation services, and telemarketing of~~  
2 ~~goods and services.~~

3 ~~39. Bingo halls and onsite food concessions between the hours of twelve midnight and~~  
4 ~~one a.m. and within the hours permitted under section 1 of this Act.~~

5 ~~SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 12.1-30-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~  
6 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

7 ~~12.1-30-04. Retail business leases or agreements - Penalty.~~

8 ~~A retail business may not be required to be open on Sunday as a part of a lease agreement,~~  
9 ~~franchise agreement, or any other contractual arrangement entered and executed before~~  
10 ~~January 1, 2019. A violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.~~

11 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 12.1-30 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
12 and enacted as follows:

13 **One day of rest - Penalty.**

14 1. An employer may not deny an employee time off for rest or worship on Sunday or a  
15 day the employee in good faith observes as the Sabbath. Time off requested by an  
16 employee under this section may not be limited or restricted in duration.

17 2. An employer that violates this section is subject to a fine of one thousand dollars.

18 3. The labor commissioner shall investigate complaints of alleged violations of this  
19 section. The commission may refer an alleged violation to the state's attorney in the  
20 county in which the violation occurred for prosecution.



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER  
HB 1150  
House Industry Business & Labor Committee  
Chair Jonathan Warrey  
January 15, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Arik Spencer, the President and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **opposition** of House Bill 1150.

HB 1150 takes North Dakota back in time and seeks to limit the economic freedom of consumers to make purchasing decisions in their best interest. It also limits the rights of businesses that choose to open their doors before noon on Sundays.

The Sunday morning blue laws repealed in 2019 never required a business to open or mandated people to shop. It did, however, expand economic freedom in ND by removing government interference from people's lives, helping border communities keep dollars in North Dakota rather than sending them out of state or online, and grow North Dakota's economy.

It also does nothing to help employees, as employers are already required to provide accommodations to employees who have strongly held religious beliefs under NDCC 14-02.4-03.

Beyond our philosophical opposition to HB 1150, the bill is rife with inconsistencies by having the government pick winners and losers. For example, while you cannot buy a shirt at the mall with the proposed legislation, you can go to a craft show. If the craft show vendor is selling a shirt, is it still acceptable to purchase it? You can't buy your kid a new pair of shoes on Sunday morning, but you can still buy some beer and bait to go fishing.

We strongly urge you to oppose HB 1150 and maintain our economic freedoms.