

**2025 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

**HB 1157**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1157  
1/16/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 8 of section 16.1-08.1-02.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to candidates maintaining separate campaign accounts.

2:00 p.m. Chairman Longmuir opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Longmuir, Vice-Chairman Fegley, Vice-Chairman Jonas, Representatives Bolinske, Hager, Hatlestad, Heilman, Klemin, Motschenbacher, Ostlie, Toman, Warrey

Members Absent: Representative Davis

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Interest bearing bank accounts
- Treatment and reporting of campaign finances
- Applicable candidates and accounts

2:01 p.m. Michael Howe, North Dakota Secretary of State, testified in favor and provided testimony #29570

2:24 p.m. Travis Zabloutney, North Dakota District 5 Chairman, testified in opposition and provided verbal testimony.

### **Additional written testimony:**

Andrew Bornemann, Kintyre, North Dakota, submitted testimony in opposition #29374.

2:31 p.m. Chairman Longmuir closed the hearing.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*

**HB 1157**  
**Testimony in opposition**

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee,

I am writing to you to respectfully request a Do Not Pass recommendation from this committee on House Bill 1157

Requiring all candidates to keep campaign finances in non-interest bearing accounts seems to be wholly unnecessary. Interest bearing accounts are standard banking practice in many areas of government, there seems to be no particular reason to prohibit their use in this one case. If there is concern about reporting interest income, that could be tackled in another fashion, but outlawing the use of an interest bearing account seems to be an unnecessary and burdensome restriction on political candidates.

Sincerely,

Andrew Bornemann  
Kintyre, ND



## HOUSE BILL NO. 1157

JANUARY 16, 2025

HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS  
REPRESENTATIVE DONALD LONGMUIR, CHAIRMAN

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY

MICHAEL HOWE, NORTH DAKOTA 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 HB1157, which was requested by our office to be introduced by Rep. Stemen due to the number of questions we get in on the topic of interest-bearing accounts and campaign finance.

HB 1157 seeks to expand the language in this section, which already requires candidates to maintain a separate account for campaign finance funds. The language suggested would require these accounts to be non-interest bearing. With the recent increases in interest rates, candidates have contacted our office wondering if they can have interest bearing accounts, and where can gains from interest be used.

We strongly feel the funds in these accounts were intended to be used for campaign political purposes and should not be gaining interest. First, interest could mean substantial gains for some candidates and not others based on the size of their accounts. Second, it also creates a reporting issue related to interest gained. Would this only be reported when it reached \$200 which is the current threshold for reporting of campaign finance contributions? Overall, we believe simplifying this statute to restrict interest-bearing accounts keeps the playing field level and removes any additional reporting and tracking for candidates of interest.

Chairman Longmuir and members of the committee that concludes my testimony and I urge your support of HB1157.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1157  
1/16/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 8 of section 16.1-08.1-02.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to candidates maintaining separate campaign accounts.

3:40 p.m. Chairman Longmuir opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Longmuir, Vice-Chairman Fegley, Vice-Chairman Jonas, Representatives Bolinske, Hager, Hatlestad, Heilman, Klemin, Motschenbacher, Toman, Warrey

Members Absent: Representatives Davis, Ostlie

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

3:40 p.m. Representative Motschenbacher moved a Do Not Pass.

3:40 p.m. Representative Heilman 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	A
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	A
Representative Nathan Toman	Y
Representative Jonathan Warrey	Y

3:44 p.m. Motion passed 11-0-2

3:44 p.m. Representative Heilman will carry the bill.

3: 45 p.m. Chairman Longmuir adjourned the meeting.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1157 ([25.0420.01000](#))**

**Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Longmuir, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1157 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.