

2025 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1198

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1198
1/24/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 40-49 and a new subsection to section 40-49-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to cooperative purchasing pursuant to a joint powers agreement and authorizing a board of park commissioners to engage in cooperative purchasing.

9:28 a.m. Chairman Longmuir opened the hearing.

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

Members Absent: Representative Hager

Discussion Topics:

- Cooperative purchasing with other states
- Support for local businesses

9:29 a.m. Representative Jonathan Warrey, North Dakota Representative for District 22, introduced the bill and provided testimony #38255.

9:31 a.m. Sherry Neas, Director of the Shared Service Division in the Office of Management and Budget, testified in favor and provided testimony #31143.

9:33 a.m. Cole Higlin, Public Policy Chair of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association, testified in favor and provided testimony #31181.

9:36 a.m. Sherry Neas, Director of the Shared Services Division in the Office of Management and Budget, provided additional testimony.

9:48 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher move to adopt amendment LC# 25.0698.01001

9:48 a.m. Representative Jonas 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	Y
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	A
Representative Jonathan Warrey	Y

9:49 a.m. Motion Passed 12-0-1

9:50 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:50 a.m. Representative Hatlestad 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	Y
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	A
Representative Jonathan Warrey	Y

9:51 a.m. Motion passed 12-0-1

9:51 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher will carry the bill.

9:51 a.m. Chairman Longmuir closed the hearing

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

January 24, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1198

Introduced by

Representatives Warrey, Longmuir, Nelson, Novak, Ostlie, Rios

Senators Boschee, Cleary, Meyer, Sickler

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new ~~section to chapter 40-49 and a new~~ subsection to section 40-49-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to cooperative purchasing contracts and cooperative purchasing for park districts pursuant to a joint powers agreement ~~and authorizing a board of park commissioners to engage in cooperative purchasing.~~

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new subsection to section 40-49-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

~~Contract~~ Participate in cooperative purchasing contracts with the office of management and budget pursuant to chapter 54-44.4, participate in cooperative purchasing contracts with another state, and contract for cooperative purchases pursuant to a joint powers agreement under chapter 54-40.3.

~~**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 40-49 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:~~

~~**Cooperative purchasing – Authorized.**~~

~~With the approval of the board of park commissioners, a park district may participate in a cooperative purchasing agreement with the state, or another political subdivision of this state or any other state, by executing a joint powers agreement under chapter 54-40.3. This section does not apply to construction of a public improvement as defined in chapter 48-01.2.~~

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1198**

Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Longmuir, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0698.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1198 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.



Management
and Budget

Testimony in Support
House Bill No. 1198
House Political Subdivisions
January 24, 2025

TESTIMONY OF

Sherry Neas, Director, Shared Services Division

Chairman Longmuir and members of the committee. My name is Sherry Neas, Director of the Shared Services Division in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). I appear today in support of HB 1198.

This bill adds a new section to the Parks and Park Districts law regarding cooperative purchasing. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Representative Warrey, the bill sponsor, and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Association on an amendment.

State procurement law in chapter 54-44.4 currently enables park districts to use cooperative purchasing contracts established by the OMB. The amendment makes it clear that a park district does not need a joint powers agreement to participate in the OMB cooperative purchasing contracts.

The bill creates new authority for park districts to participate in other types of cooperative purchasing agreements through a joint powers agreement.

OMB supports cooperative purchasing, but we are not staffed to execute all the needed cooperative purchasing agreements for all levels of state government and political subdivisions. The amended bill makes it clear that there are multiple sources of authority for park districts to join cooperative purchasing contracts.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, this concludes my testimony. I ask your support for HB 1198. I would be happy to answer any questions.

**Testimony of Cole Higlin
North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
To House Political Subdivisions
In Support to HB 1198
Friday, January 24, 2025**

Chairman Longmuir and members of the Committee, my name is Cole Higlin, and I am the public policy chair of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). We represent more than 900 members, primarily park districts, and work to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

On behalf of North Dakota's park districts, I express support for House Bill 1198 which provides clarity as to how park districts are allowed to engage in cooperative purchasing. My understanding is that an amendment is going to be brought forward to provide further clarity to the language, allowing park districts to participate in cooperative purchasing contracts with OMB, cooperative purchasing contracts with another state, and cooperative purchases pursuant to a joint powers agreement.

Cooperative purchasing allows political subdivisions to pool buying power, securing competitive prices and favorable terms. This bill would allow park districts to leverage this model, unlocking cost savings that can be reinvested in our facilities, programs and services for the communities we serve. By providing clarity to how park districts can participate in cooperative purchasing, the bill would help ensure efficiency and transparency in the process, all while maintaining compliance with existing rules and regulations.

We ask the committee to support this bill as an important step toward enhancing the effectiveness of park districts statewide. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support.

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL NO. 1198

Introduced by

Representatives Warrey, Longmuir, Nelson, Novak, Ostlie, Rios

Senators Boschee, Cleary, Meyer, Sickler

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new ~~section to chapter 40-49 and a new~~ subsection to
2 section 40-49-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to cooperative purchasing
3 pursuant to a joint powers agreement ~~and authorizing a board of park commissioners to engage~~
4 ~~in cooperative purchasing.~~

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 40-49-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 ~~Contract~~ Participate in cooperative purchasing contracts with the office of management
9 and budget pursuant to chapter 54-44.4, participate in cooperative purchasing
10 contracts with another state, and contract for cooperative purchases pursuant to a joint
11 powers agreement under chapter 54-40.3.

12 ~~**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 40-49 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
13 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

14 ~~**Cooperative purchasing – Authorized.**~~
15 ~~With the approval of the board of park commissioners, a park district may participate in a~~
16 ~~cooperative purchasing agreement with the state, or another political subdivision of this state or~~
17 ~~any other state, by executing a joint powers agreement under chapter 54-40.3. This section~~
18 ~~does not apply to construction of a public improvement as defined in chapter 48-01.2.~~

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2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 1198

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1198
3/7/2025

Relating to cooperative purchasing contracts and cooperative purchasing for park districts pursuant to a joint powers agreement.

9:46 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

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

Discussion Topics:

- Defines information technology
- Clarification of purchasing requirements
- Vendor pool contracts

9:46 a.m. Representative Warrey, District #22, introduced the bill.

9:48 a.m. Sherry Neas, Director of the shared Services Division Office of Management and Budget, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39162.

9:50 a.m. Cole Higlin, Public Policy Chair ND Recreation & Park Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39313.

9:52 a.m. Senator Lee moved Do Pass.

9:52 a.m. Senator Walen 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 Castaneda will carry the bill.

9:53 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1198 ([25.0698.02000](#))**

State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1198 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



Management
and Budget

Testimony in Support
House Bill No. 1198
Senate State and Local Government
March 7, 2025

TESTIMONY OF

Sherry Neas, Director, Shared Services Division

Chairman Roers and members of the committee. My name is Sherry Neas, Director of the Shared Services Division in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). I appear today in support of engrossed HB 1198.

This bill adds a new section to the Parks and Park Districts law regarding cooperative purchasing. The bill creates new authority for park districts to participate in other types of cooperative purchasing agreements.

This bill was amended by the House and we appreciated the opportunity to work with Representative Warrey, the bill sponsor, and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Association on an amendment. The amendment was required because current state procurement law in chapter 54-44.4 enables park districts to use cooperative purchasing contracts established by the OMB without a joint powers agreement.

OMB supports cooperative purchasing and has many contracts park districts can use. OMB is not staffed to execute all the needed cooperative purchasing agreements for all levels of state government and political subdivisions.

The engrossed bill makes it clear that there are multiple sources of authority for park districts to join cooperative purchasing contracts.

Chairman Roers and committee members, this concludes my testimony. I ask your support for engrossed HB 1198. I would be happy to answer any questions.

**Testimony of Cole Higlin
North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
To Senate State and Local Government
In Support to HB 1198
Friday, March 7, 2025**

Chair Roers and members of the Committee, my name is Cole Higlin, and I am the public policy chair of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). We represent more than 900 members, primarily park districts, and work to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

On behalf of North Dakota's park districts, I express support for House Bill 1198 which provides clarity as to how park districts are allowed to engage in cooperative purchasing. This legislation addresses the challenges park districts face in securing cost-effective goods and services by streamlining the purchasing process and expanding opportunities for savings.

HB 1198 clarifies that park districts do not need a joint powers agreement to access cooperative purchasing contracts through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), making it easier and faster for districts to utilize these contracts.

Additionally, the bill grants park districts the authority to participate in cooperative purchasing agreements established by other states, allowing them to tap into broader vendor options and potential discounts, such as Sourcwell which is through Minnesota.

Importantly, the bill also retains and clarifies the option for park districts to enter into joint powers agreements with other political subdivisions.

By removing administrative barriers, enhancing access to cooperative purchasing contracts, and preserving flexibility, HB 1198 will help park districts save taxpayer dollars, improve efficiency, and better serve their communities.

I strongly urge your support for this bill and would be happy to answer any questions.