

**2025 HOUSE JUDICIARY**

**HB 1253**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Judiciary Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1253  
1/22/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 10 of section 53-06.1-15.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the authority of the attorney general to impose fines for gaming violations.

9:30 a.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chairman Karls, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Hoverson, Johnston, McLeod, Olson, Satrom, Tveit, VanWinkle, Wolff, Schneider

### Discussion Topics:

- Intentions of the bill
- Gaming violation penalties
- Common gaming violations

9:30 a.m. Jim Grueneich, North Dakota Representative for District 28, introduced the bill and testified in favor.

9:36 a.m. Scott Meske, Lobbyist for the North Dakota Gaming Alliance, testified in favor and provided testimony #30019.

9:49 a.m. Rudie Martinson, North Dakota Hospitality Association, testified in favor.

9:51 a.m. Representative Hoverson moved a Do Pass.

9:51 a.m. Representative McLeod second the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y

Representative Christina Wolff	Y
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9:52 a.m. Motion passed 14-0-0

Representative Vetter will carry the bill.

**Additional written testimony:**

William Kalanek, Lobbyist for the Charitable Gaming Association of North Dakota, submitted testimony in favor #30560.

9:52 a.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1253 ([25.0786.01000](#))**

**Judiciary Committee (Rep. Klemin, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1253 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



## **Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming**

**January 22, 2025**

### **Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1253**

Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Gaming Alliance and on behalf of the Members of the NDGA, we stand in support of House Bill 1253. ND Gaming Alliance represents all facets of the charitable gaming industry. Veteran and Fraternal Organizations, Charities, Hospitality, Manufacturers, and Distributors.

This bill is similar in its intent to 2023 Session Bill SB 2271. We opposed that bill last session for a variety of reasons. Rep. Grueneich's bill is an improvement. The Attorney General's Office is the regulator for charitable gaming in North Dakota. Currently, his office only has one recourse in the case of a gaming site violating state law, and that is to pull the site license for a year. HB 1253 gives the AG's office the authority and flexibility to impose fines if warranted, when gaming sites do not follow the rules outlined by this body.

Charitable gaming has provided significant benefits to our communities across the State. It's imperative the industry, charities and sites alike, operate transparently and within the rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you this morning, and we urge a DO PASS on House Bill 1253. I stand for any questions you may have.

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1253**  
**Submitted by Charitable Gaming Association of North Dakota**  
**January 22, 2025**

Chairman Klemin and Committee members,

The Charitable Gaming Association of North Dakota is a trade association representing charities that operate gaming activities throughout North Dakota. CGAND fully supports HB 1253 and the crucial aspect of gaming law enforcement it addresses, which has significant implications for charitable organizations.

As you are aware, charitable gaming organizations rely on gaming activities to support their missions and serve our community. Most of these organizations operate with integrity and a sense of responsibility, ensuring compliance with applicable gaming laws and regulations.

However, there are instances where property owners violate state gaming rules or attempt to insert themselves into gaming operations without the knowledge or against the will of the licensed gaming organization. In such cases, it is crucial to recognize that the property owners, rather than the charitable organizations, be held accountable. Currently, the Attorney General's office only has the authority to impose fines and sanctions against the licensed gaming organization. HB 1253 seeks to bridge this gap by empowering the AG to impose fines on property owners without hindering the operations of the charity.

For these reasons, CGAND supports **HB 1253** and respectfully asks for a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Thank you, Chairman Klemin and members of the committee, for your attention to this important matter.

**2025 SENATE JUDICIARY**

**HB 1253**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Judiciary Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1253  
3/5/2025

Relating to the authority of the attorney general to impose fines for gaming violations.
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12:59 p.m. Chair Larson opened the meeting.

Members present:

Chair Larson, Vice Chairman Paulson, Senators: Castaneda, Cory, Luick, Myrdal, Braunberger.

### Discussion Topics:

- Charitable gaming violations
- Fines versus revocation
- Due process in enforcement
- Impact on charities
- Regulatory options for gaming sites

1:00 p.m. Representative Jim Grueneich, District 28, introduced the bill.

1:08 p.m. Scott Meske, Lobbyist, North Dakota Gaming Alliance, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38755.

1:10 p.m. Rudie Martinson, ND Hospitality Association, testified in favor.

1:11 p.m. Willaim Kalanek, Lobbyist, Charitable Gaming Assoc. of ND, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38719.

1:12 p.m. Deb McDaniel, Director, Charitable Gaming for the ND Office of Attorney General, testified as neutral.

1:18 p.m. Chair Larson closed the hearing.

1:18 p.m. Senator Myrdal moved a Do Pass.

1:18 p.m. Senator Castaneda seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y



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Motion Passed 7-0-0.

1:19 p.m. Senator Myrdal will carry the bill.

1:19 p.m. Chair Larson closed the hearing.

*Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1253 ([25.0786.01000](#))**

**Judiciary Committee (Sen. Larson, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1253 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE****HB 1253****Submitted by Charitable Gaming Association of North Dakota****March 5, 2025**

Chair Larson and Committee members, the Charitable Gaming Association of North Dakota is a trade association representing charities that operate gaming activities throughout North Dakota. CGAND fully supports HB 1253 and the crucial aspect of gaming law enforcement it addresses, which has significant implications for charitable organizations.

As you are aware, charitable gaming organizations rely on gaming activities to support their missions and serve our community. Most of these organizations operate with integrity and a sense of responsibility, ensuring compliance with applicable gaming laws and regulations.

However, there are instances where property owners violate state gaming rules or attempt to insert themselves into gaming operations without the knowledge or against the will of the licensed gaming organization. In such cases, it is crucial to recognize that the property owners, rather than the charitable organizations, be held accountable. Currently, the Attorney General's office only has the authority to impose fines and sanctions against the licensed gaming organization. HB 1253 seeks to bridge this gap by empowering the AG to impose fines on property owners without hindering the operations of the charity.

For these reasons, CGAND supports **HB 1253** and respectfully asks for a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Thank you.



## **Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming**

**March 5, 2025**

### **Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1253**

Madame Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Gaming Alliance and on behalf of the Members of the NDGA, we stand in support of House Bill 1253. ND Gaming Alliance represents all facets of the charitable gaming industry. Veteran and Fraternal Organizations, Charities, Hospitality, Manufacturers, and Distributors.

This bill is similar in its intent to 2023 Session Bill SB 2271. We opposed that bill last session for a variety of reasons. Rep. Grueneich's bill is an improvement. The Attorney General's Office is the regulator for charitable gaming in North Dakota. Currently, his office only has one recourse in the case of a gaming site found in violation state law, and that is to pull the site license for a year. HB 1253 gives the AG's office the authority and flexibility to impose fines if warranted, when gaming sites do not follow the rules outlined by this body.

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