

2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1356

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1356
1/23/2025

Relating to the legislative leaders' access to requests to the legislative council made by members of the legislative assembly.

2:30 p.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Discussion Topics:

- Confidentiality between attorneys and legislators.
- Duplicate bills
- North Dakota bill creation process

2:30 p.m. Representative Scott Louser, North Dakota Representative for District 5, introduced the bill.

2:47 p.m. Representative Mike Lefor, North Dakota Representative for District 37, testified in favor and submitted testimony #31099.

3:05 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong for Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Representative Mike Lefor

HB 1356 Testimony

Good afternoon, chairman Schauer and members of the Government and Veterans affairs committee, my name is Mike Lefor, and I serve District 37 - Dickinson in the House of Representatives. I am here to speak in support of HB 1356. This legislation would give the leaders of each of the four caucuses in the North Dakota legislative assembly to view bill drafts requested by legislative members in their caucus.

This is becoming more important due to the large number of bills being brought forward this session. A leader could look at the totality of the list and reach out to individual legislators to let them know of others who might be working on similar legislation to eliminate duplicative efforts.

Additionally, if there are legislators interested in a certain topic or topics this would give the leader the ability to ask them to work together to put the potential legislation in the best form it can be.

When small groups of legislators work together much as was done in the case of the animal agriculture bill last session, work was done with many agricultural groups to support loosening the ownership laws surrounding animal agriculture. As a result of this legislation, there are two dairy cattle businesses relocating to North Dakota with total herds of 40,000.

This was done on a proactive basis without bill drafts, however, this is an example of the possibility of other groups working together to provide great legislation on a variety of topics.

Finally, I believe this has the potential to promote better teamwork by getting likeminded individuals working together. This is an example of how the legislative branch can go from being reactive in this area to proactive and I think it would provide many exciting opportunities. With that, I ask the committee to consider a "do pass" recommendation on HB 1356. Thank you.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1356
2/13/2025

Relating to the legislative leaders' access to requests to the legislative council made by members of the legislative assembly.

10:19 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Brown, Grindberg, Karls, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff
Members absent: Representatives Bahl, Christy, McLeod

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action
- Requests for legislation

10:20 a.m. Representative VanWinkle introduced amendments LC#25.0962.01003, #45232.

10:25 a.m. Representative VanWinkle moved a Do Not Pass.

10:26 a.m. Representative Wolff seconded the motion.

10:27 a.m. Representative VanWinkle amended the motion to adopt the amendments relating to requests for legislation.

10:27 a.m. Representative Steiner seconded the motion.

10:27 a.m. Representative VanWinkle rescinded the motion to adopt amendment and moved a Do Not Pass.

10:29 a.m. Representative Steiner seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	N
Representative Bernie Satrom	N
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	AB
Representative Karen Grindberg	N
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Carrie McLeod	AB
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Representative Christina Wolff	Y
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10:31 a.m. Motion passed 6-5-3.

Representative Wolff will carry the bill.

10:31 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Bill was reconsidered 2/13/25 afternoon.

25.0962.01003
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Louser
February 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1356

Introduced by

Representatives Louser, Ista, Lefor

Senators Hogan, Hogue

1 A BILL for an Act to ~~amend and reenact section 44-04-18.6 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~
2 ~~relating to the legislative leaders' access to requests to the legislative council made by~~
3 ~~members of the legislative assembly,~~ for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter
4 54-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to access to requests to the legislative council
5 made by members of the legislative assembly.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

7 ~~SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 44-04-18.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
8 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~
9 ~~44-04-18.6. Access to legislative records and information.~~
10 ~~1. The following records, regardless of form or characteristic, of or relating to the~~
11 ~~legislative council, the legislative management, the legislative assembly, the house of~~
12 ~~representatives, the senate, or a member of the legislative assembly are not subject to~~
13 ~~section 44-04-18 and section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota:~~
14 ~~a. A record of a purely personal or private nature;~~
15 ~~b. A record that is legislative council work product or is legislative council client~~
16 ~~communication;~~
17 ~~c. A record that reveals the content of communications between a member of the~~
18 ~~legislative assembly and any person; and~~

1 ~~d. Except with respect to a governmental entity determining the proper use of~~
2 ~~telephone service, a record of telephone usage which identifies the parties or lists~~
3 ~~the telephone numbers of the parties involved.~~

4 ~~2. The exception in subdivision c of subsection 1 applies to records possessed by a~~
5 ~~member of the legislative assembly or by any other public officer or employee.~~

6 ~~3. This section does not apply to any record distributed at a meeting subject to section~~
7 ~~44-04-19 and section 5 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota.~~

8 ~~4. Notwithstanding subsection 1, information related to a request to the legislative council~~
9 ~~made by a member of the legislative assembly for a draft of a bill or resolution or a~~
10 ~~revision to a bill or resolution may be disclosed to the caucus leader of the requester's~~
11 ~~political faction.~~

12 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
13 and enacted as follows:

14 **Requests for legislation - Legislative council - Disclosure to caucus leader.**

15 1. The legislative council shall disclose to the caucus leader of the requester's political
16 faction the topic of a request to the legislative council made by a member of the
17 legislative assembly for a draft bill or resolution or a revision to a draft bill or resolution
18 and the name of the requester.

19 2. A draft or revision of a draft bill or resolution drafted for a member of the legislative
20 assembly may be disclosed to the caucus leader of the requester's political faction,
21 unless the member of the legislative assembly elects to maintain the confidentiality of
22 the draft or revision of a draft bill or resolution with respect to the caucus leader of the
23 requester's political faction in the manner prescribed by the legislative council.

1 3. Records disclosed to the caucus leader of the requester's political faction under this
2 section are not subject to section 44-04-18 and section 6 of article XI of the
3 Constitution of North Dakota.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1356
2/13/2025

Relating to the legislative leaders' access to requests to the legislative council made by members of the legislative assembly.

2:42 p.m. Chairman Satrom opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Brown, Grindberg, Karls, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff
Members absent: Representatives Bahl, Christy, McLeod

Discussion Topics:

- Amendments relating to requests for legislation

2:43 p.m. Representative Steiner moved to reconsider the bill.

2:43 p.m. Representative Rohr seconded the motion.

2:43 p.m. Voice vote failed.

2:43 p.m. Chairman Schauer called for a Roll Call vote.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Collette Brown	AB
Representative Josh Christy	AB
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	AB
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	N
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	N

2:43 p.m. Motion passed 8-2-4.

2:44 p.m. Vice-Chairman Satrom moved to adopt amendment LC# 25.0962.01003.

2:44 p.m. Representative Steiner seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Collette Brown	AB
Representative Josh Christy	AB
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	AB
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	N

2:44 p.m. Motion passed 9-1-4.

2:45 p.m. Representative Wolff moved a Do Not Pass as Amended.

2:45 p.m. Representative VanWinkle seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	N
Representative Bernie Satrom	N
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Collette Brown	AB
Representative Josh Christy	AB
Representative Karen Grindberg	N
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Carrie McLeod	AB
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

2:45 p.m. Motion failed 5-5-4.

2:46 p.m. Chairman Schauer called for a second roll call vote.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	N
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Collette Brown	AB

Representative Josh Christy	AB
Representative Karen Grindberg	N
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Carrie McLeod	AB
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

2:46 p.m. Motion passed 6-4-4.

Representative Wolff will carry the bill.

2:46 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1356

Introduced by

Representatives Louser, Ista, Lefor

Senators Hogan, Hogue

HD
2/13/25
Pg. 1 of 2

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17 ~~— c. A record that reveals the content of communications between a member of the~~
18 ~~legislative assembly and any person; and~~

- 1 ~~_____ d. Except with respect to a governmental entity determining the proper use of~~
2 ~~telephone service, a record of telephone usage which identifies the parties or lists~~
3 ~~the telephone numbers of the parties involved.~~
- 4 ~~_____ 2. The exception in subdivision c of subsection 1 applies to records possessed by a~~
5 ~~member of the legislative assembly or by any other public officer or employee.~~
- 6 ~~_____ 3. This section does not apply to any record distributed at a meeting subject to section~~
7 ~~44-04-19 and section 5 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota.~~
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21 unless the member of the legislative assembly elects to maintain the confidentiality of
22 the draft or revision of a draft bill or resolution with respect to the caucus leader of the
23 requester's political faction in the manner prescribed by the legislative council.
- 24 3. Records disclosed to the caucus leader of the requester's political faction under this
25 section are not subject to section 44-04-18 and section 6 of article XI of the
26 Constitution of North Dakota.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1356**

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0962.01003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 4 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1356 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.