

2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1463

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1463
2/6/2025

Relating to the location of a district organization's endorsing caucus or an official district committee or district executive committee meeting.

3:18 p.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

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

Members absent: Representative Christy, Schneider, Wolff

Discussion Topics:

- Rural communities

3:18 p.m. Representative D. Anderson, District 6, introduced the bill.

3:24 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

3:24 p.m. Representative Grindberg moved a Do Pass.

3:24 p.m. Representative Karls seconded the motion.

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

3:27 p.m. Motion passed 9-2-3.

Representative VanWinkle will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Travis Zablotney, District 5 Republicans Chairman, submitted testimony in opposition, #35639.

Jerol Gohrick, District 2 Republicans Chairman, submitted testimony in opposition, #35732.

Josey Milbradt, District 8 Republicans Vice Chairman, submitted testimony in opposition, #35785.

Andrew Borneman, North Dakota Citizen, submitted testimony in opposition, #35662.

3:28 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Bill reconsidered on 02/13/25.

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Testimony of Travis R Zabloutney HB1463

February 5, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee:

I ask you to recommend a do not pass on HB1463. I am Travis Zabloutney resident of Minot and Chairman of District 5 NDGOP.

Please consider should legislative district meeting requirements of a private organization be dictated by state century code and the legislators or by the members of a district through the district organizations bylaws?

I believe the latter is correct. The State should have no authority to determine the meeting location of a private organization holding district meetings. If members of the district have issue with meeting locations or for that matter anything else within the operation of the district, they should bring an amendment to the bylaws to be voted on by the members of that district. This one is simple, leave it to the people at the lowest level of the private organization to make this decision.

I STRONGLY URGE A DO NOT PASS ON HB1463

Respectfully,

Travis Zabloutney

District 5 Chairman NDGOP

Minot, ND

701-721-2188

HB 1463
Testimony in Opposition.

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

My name is Andrew Bornemann, I am a farmer and small business owner from Kintyre, ND. I stand opposed to HB1463 as submitted, thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with this committee. For reference, I served as chair of the District 28 Republican party for 5 years prior to the most recent redistricting, and am currently active in District 8 and the ND State Republican party as well. I am however testifying on behalf of myself and not in any official capacity today.

Subsection 1 of this bill (lines 9-14) would require all district political party meetings to be held "within the geographical boundaries of the district organization's legislative district". This is simply not feasible in many cases, and unnecessarily burdensome in many others. Smaller, heavily populated districts in downtown Bismarck, Minot, Fargo and Grand Forks may not have access to a suitably large enough facility within their district boundaries to hold their larger conventions, and many districts in more heavily populated areas are in the habit of having joint conventions with other districts, most notably in Fargo, where they are then able to share the costs of a larger venue, and increase their draw to both speakers and members. This bill would effectively end this practice.

Subsection 2 of this bill (lines 15-18) would place further restrictions on the locations of district meetings, particularly in districts bordering a large city. As submitted, this bill would further require the district meetings be held within that portion of the district which lies within the geographical boundaries of the city, even if a very small portion of the district lies within city limits. This language is problematic for a couple of reasons, the first of which is the same as above: there simply are not venues large enough for some of these meetings within the small area that is in city limits in several mostly rural districts. Second, if a district contains portions of several incorporated cities, which city would the district be required to hold their meetings in?

I do however sympathize with the goal of requiring District meetings to be held within a reasonable distance of the district, as a protection for the district membership, and it is my opinion that the above issues could be alleviated by including alternative language, and recommend one of the following methods:

1. Require the district meetings to be held within the boundaries of the district, OR within a certain radius of the center of the district. A 25 mile radius would allow ample leeway for smaller districts in a city to have their meetings within or at venues near the city, and still allow a district on the edge of Fargo to participate in the joint Fargo conventions.
2. Require the district meetings to be held within the boundaries of the district, OR within a certain distance from any edge of the district. A 5 mile limit from any edge of a district would also accomplish the same as above.
3. Make subsection 2 of this bill an exception to the requirement of subsection 1, and make it optional. This way, a district which encompasses a small portion of a larger city would have the option to have their meetings at any location within the city limits, even if that location is outside of their legislative district boundaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns on this bill, and I would stand for any questions from the committee.

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Jerol Gohrick, District 2 Chair, I am writing this in opposition of HB1463. It is up to the discretion of the district Committee to announce where the convention, or any other meetings are to be held. Please issue a do not pass on HB1463!!

Respectfully yours,

Jerol Gohrick
District 2
Chairman

Dear Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I am writing you to urge a DO NOT PASS on HB1463. As Vice Chair of the District 8 Republican Party, we have inserted this language into our District By-Laws. I do agree that districts should try to conduct all business within its geographical boundaries. This promotes community and supports local business but this language does not need to be codified in Century Code. It should be left up to the districts as a private organization to decide. We do not need to be passing more laws to regulate private organizations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Josey Milbradt

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Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1463
2/13/2025

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8:15 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

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

Members absent: Representatives Bahl, Christy, McLeod

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

8:19 a.m. Representative Grindberg moved to reconsider the bill.

8:19 a.m. Representative Steiner seconded the motion.

8:19 a.m. Voice vote passed.

8:19 a.m. Representative Vetter moved a Do Not Pass.

8:20 a.m. Representative Wolff seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	N
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	AB
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	N
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	Y

8:21 a.m. Motion passed 9-2-3.

Representative Grindberg will carry the bill.

8:21 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1463 ([25.1045.02000](#))

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (9 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1463 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.