

2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SCR 4027

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SCR 4027
3/6/2025

Relating to charitable gaming and limitations on the use of gaming proceeds.
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2:40 p.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

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

Members Absent: Senator Lee

Discussion Topics:

- Effect on charitable raffles
- Promotes public trust
- Clarifies gaming revenue purposes
- Ensure transparency and accountability

2:40 p.m. Senator Cleary, District #35, introduced the bill, answered committee questions and submitted testimony #39344.

Additional written testimony:

Doug Sharbono, citizen, submitted testimony in opposition #39179.

Jerol Gohrick, President Sons of Liberty, submitted testimony in opposition #39208.

Clayton Pederson, Co-Founder Guns & the 701, submitted testimony in opposition #39297 and #39298.

Travis Zablotney, Chairman NDGOP District 5, submitted testimony in opposition #39238.

2:49 p.m. Chair Roers closed the meeting.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

**Do Not Pass Testimony
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota
on SCR4027
in the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

I am writing as a citizen and believe SCR 4027 is undesirable legislation limiting the usage of raffles. This legislation excludes some organizations that have traditionally used the raffle for political district fundraising. The gun raffle has been extremely popular to this effect, and if restricted, would catch the attention of many 2nd Amendment Rights supporters. These patriotic supporters are right in their mission and beliefs and should have this available avenue to support their 2A beliefs and their chosen political party.

Additionally, the proponents of this resolution will say raffle fundraising benefitting political districts detracts from fundraising of charitable organizations. This is a zero sum game argument that carries little weight. In addition to that, I am personally unaware of gun raffles that the American Heart Association conducts being impeded by the sales of gun raffle tickets for a political district. Political district fundraising and charitable organization raffles don't really intertwine and are often non-overlapping supporters. When the exception occurs, 2A supporters are usually the enthusiastic type that fully support both.

Please give SCR 4027 a Do Not Pass.

Thank you,

Doug Sharbono
1708 9th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

Committee members,

My name is Jerol Gohrick, I am writing in opposition to hcr4027 because this is another form of Government overreach!!!! Our organization is around 700 members, and 7 chapters here in North Dakota, and we have raffles throughout the year and raise alot of money for school functions, churches, severely injured or sick people, also Legislative Districts! This would interfere with some of how we do this, and there is no sense in it other than to take away some of the peoples Liberties!! Another bill against The U.S. Constitution and State Constitution, taking away our rights to be a free people and raise money as we see fit to help others!! I strongly Urge a Do Not Pass on HCR 4027!!!

Thank you,

Jerol Gohrick
Sons of Liberty
President

Senate State and Local Government Committee**Testimony of Travis R Zablotney SCR4027****March 6, 2025**

Chairman Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

I ask you to recommend a do not pass on HCR4027. I am Travis Zablotney resident of Minot, NW Region Chairman of the NDGOP and District 5 NDGOP Chairman.

Since the passage of a bill brought by Senator David Hogue 3 or 4 sessions ago, local legislative districts have had the ability to raise funds for the support of its local district candidates and activities supporting the regular activities of the district meant to encourage participation and to get people out to vote. There is no better way to engage grassroots members of a district in fundraising than with a raffle. Individual members can make their own contributions to the fundraising of the district by simply asking those that support the efforts of a district to make a \$20 or sometimes \$100 contribution through the purchase of a raffle ticket. The total value of prizes in a raffle is limited currently which puts a cap on the amount an organization can raise via this method. Taking away the ability to fund raise in this manner will give an upper hand to big money and often out of state interests. Raffles are truly a form of local fundraising and is money comes from local supporters. I would not make any sense to disallow this fundraising method for local political districts as it has been an can continue to be and excellent fundraising option for local district level organizations in support of its candidates.

In addition, this is an issue that does not belong in the constitution. If any control at all is necessary in this regard it should be created in century code.

I STRONGLY URGE A DO NOT PASS ON SCR4027

Respectfully,

Travis Zablotney

District 5 Chairman NDGOP

Minot, ND

701-721-2188



GUNS & The 701

1923 ADAMS LANE

BISMARCK, ND 58501

701-220-3560

www.GunsAndThe701.com

To: ND Senate State and Local Government Committee – Chairman Roers

From: Clayton Pederson

Retired National Rifle Association Sr. Field Representative ND/SD

GUNS & The 701 co-founder

Subject: SCR 4027 – Do Not Pass Testimony

Chairman Roers and members of the Committee, I am writing today as I am unable to be there in person to testify in opposition of SCR 4027. Anytime we present changes to our ND State Constitution we need to be thorough and cautious as the ND State Constitution is the basis of all of our RIGHTS as citizens. It also should NEVER be used as a function to harbor emotional reactions or as a tool to silence freedom of speech or mechanisms of that speech through any kind of entity, organization, private citizens who form as one voice, or anything that gives the people a voice in THEIR self governance.

This is exactly what SCR 4027 will do. It is playing on the emotions of the people as they view raffles (gambling really) or games of chance from a perspective that doesn't or may not completely align with their personal feelings on that activity that is used by so many groups/organizations in the state of ND as a way to compete with "big money", giving a voice to those that don't have thousands and thousands of or sometimes even millions of dollars to participate in the free exercise of their speech, charitable actions, or anything else that give We The People a voice in ND policies/actions.

Raffles, gun raffles in particular, are a popular and very successful fundraising mechanism used across a broad spectrum of the state of North Dakota, in everything from church, sports, advocate, charitable, EMS, fraternal, and party organizations.

These raffle provide the very important funding sources that are a BENEFIT to so many people in a variety of movements including a grassroots voice from "We The People" in North Dakota through our political parties at the closest level of that structure, the Districts within where we live. It provides the necessary funding for us to actually be able to choose those people we wish to have represent us on ballots with a united voice, which should not be silenced within our State Constitution. I would contend it is a purer form of representation through monetary support than other forms, and even equalizes the "playing field" for every day ordinary residents in North Dakota, especially in the arena of big money donors from PACs and outside donors trying to influence our state.

I also believe the way this is written, it will have unintentional consequences for all organizations, especially the 2nd Amendment organizations who have used these raffles to help raise money to protect this absolute RIGHT. Many organizations don't have a primary functional to operate in a political arena, that is just a fact, they do so to essentially "make things better". There are times though, for example, that an organization will see a candidate, state measure, legislative bill, or county ordinance, etc., that will be an infringement on our rights, or detrimental to the goals of the organization or even

worse will have a large negative impact on their members or the state as whole. This may result in that said organization to support, donate, or advocate for or against these situations, and I ask you.....WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE ABLE TO with any of the funds they have raised? Why can't they do this on behalf of their members as a unified VOICE in the spirit of We The People in support of Self Governance as this nation was founded on?

Why would you, those who took an oath to uphold our Constitutional Rights are representatives of We The People, want to infringe on this right, or any rights that we all hold. None of us should be afraid of discussion, none of us should be afraid to hear from the constituents that you represent, nobody should want to impede the movement of self governance from the people in North Dakota, but rather do the opposite, and empower We The People with EVERY tool available for a voice in our Representative Republic with EVERY opportunity we can.

I stand in opposition, of the infringing manner upon our rights, of SCR 4027 and respectively recommend a DO NOT PASS from the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

Thank you for your consideration:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clayton Pederson', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Clayton Pederson – Retired NRA Sr. Field Rep ND/SD
GUNS & The 701 co-founder
Rancher/Sioux County ND

To: Chair Roers and Member of the Senate Committee on SLG

From: Senator Sean Cleary, District 35 – Bill Sponsor

Date: 3/6/2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HCR 4027 – Prohibiting Gaming Revenues for Political Purposes

Chair Roers and Members of the Committee:

I am here to present HCR 4027 for your favorable consideration. This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit **political campaigns, candidates, and committees** from using **charitable gaming as a fundraising tool**.

Why This Amendment is Needed:

- **Gaming in North Dakota has grown significantly in recent years, generating substantial revenue.** While gaming was initially intended to support nonprofits and community organizations, this has expanded to allow political entities to more broadly use gaming as a fundraising tool.
- **A recent interim study highlighted concerns about the difficulty of tracking gaming money.** By combining gaming with political fundraising, oversight becomes even more convoluted.
- **Gaming was never meant to be a campaign fundraising tool.** Charitable gaming is meant to support nonprofits, not finance political campaigns and PAC's. As charitable gaming continues to grow, we need to be proactive about how it is being utilized.

What This Amendment Does:

- Clarifies that gaming revenues cannot be used for political purposes.
- Promotes public trust in the integrity of charitable gaming and in our elections.
- Ensures transparency and accountability in political campaign funding.

As with all constitutional measures, **passage of HCR 4027 would place this amendment on the ballot for voter approval.** I respectfully ask for a "Do-Pass" recommendation and am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Senator Sean Cleary
District 35
(701) 426-4618

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SCR 4027
3/13/2025

Relating to charitable gaming and limitations on the use of gaming proceeds.
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10:23 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

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

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

10:24 a.m. Senator Walen moved Amendment LC #25.3104.01001.

10:24 a.m. Senator Castaneda 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

10:32 a.m. Senator Walen moved Do Pass as amended.

10:32 a.m. Senator Braunberger seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	N
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	Y

Motion Passed 5-1-0

Senator Braunberger will carry the bill.

10:34 a.m. Chair Roers closed the meeting.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

CO
3/13/25
10fz

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

Introduced by

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4027

Senators Cleary, Dever

Representatives Jonas, Schauer

1 A concurrent resolution to amend and reenact section 25 of article XI of the Constitution of
2 North Dakota, relating to charitable gaming and limitations on the use of gaming proceeds.

3 STATEMENT OF INTENT

4 This measure adds a provision to prohibit the use of proceeds from gaming or the lottery for a
5 political campaign, candidate for office, ballot measure, or political organization.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF 7 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

8 That the following proposed amendment to section 25 of article XI of the Constitution of
9 North Dakota is agreed to and must be submitted to the qualified electors of North Dakota at the
10 general election to be held in 2026, in accordance with section 16 of article IV of the
11 Constitution of North Dakota.

12 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 25 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **Section 25.** The legislative assembly ~~shall~~may not authorize any game of chance, lottery,
15 or gift enterprises, under any pretense, or for any purpose ~~whatever~~. However, the legislative
16 assembly shall authorize the state of North Dakota to join a multi-state lottery for the benefit of
17 the state of North Dakota, and, the legislative assembly may authorize by law bona fide
18 nonprofit veterans', charitable, educational, religious, or fraternal organizations, civic and
19 service clubs, or ~~such~~ other public-spirited organizations as it may recognize, to conduct games
20 of chance ~~when, if~~ the entire net proceeds of ~~such~~the games of chance are to be devoted to
21 educational, charitable, patriotic, fraternal, religious, or other public-spirited uses. Proceeds
22 from a game of chance, lottery, or similar activity may not be used to support, finance, or

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly

- 1 | influence any political campaign, candidate for office, ballot measure, or political organization.
- 2 | unless the game of chance is a raffle.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SCR 4027**

State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.3104.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4027 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

2025 HOUSE JUDICIARY

SCR 4027

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Room JW327B, State Capitol

SCR 4027
3/25/2025

A concurrent resolution to amend and reenact section 25 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota, relating to charitable gaming and limitations on the use of gaming proceeds.

9:02 a.m. Chairman Klemin called the meeting to order.

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

Members Absent: Representative Hoverson

Discussion Topics:

- Use of raffles to fund political campaigns
- Politically active charities
- Limitations on North Dakota raffles

9:03 a.m. Senator Sean Cleary, North Dakota Senator for District 35, introduced the bill and provided testimony #43697.

9:20 a.m. Deb McDaniels, Director of the Gaming Division under the Office of the Attorney General, testified in neutral.

9:40 a.m. Representative Wolff moved a Do Not Pass.

9:40 a.m. Representative Henderson seconded the motion.

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

9:41 a.m. Motion passed 9-3-2

9:41 a.m. Representative Wolff will carry the bill.

9:42 a.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SCR 4027 ([25.3104.02000](#))**

Judiciary Committee (Rep. Klemin, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (9 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4027 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

To: Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
From: Senator Sean Cleary, District 35 — Bill Sponsor
Subject: Testimony in Support of SCR 4027 – Gaming Amendment

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am here to present SCR 4027 for your favorable consideration. This resolution clarifies that gaming in North Dakota is for charitable and public-spirited purposes—not for political fundraising.

Proposed Change

Prohibit gaming revenues from being used for political purposes.

- Gaming in North Dakota has expanded significantly, particularly with the introduction of electronic pull-tabs (e-tabs), turning it into a multi-billion-dollar industry.
 - While gaming revenues are currently narrowly tailored to fund political campaigns, we need to be proactive in ensuring does not become widespread.
 - The Attorney General's Office noted during the interim study that tracking gaming money is already challenging. This lack of transparency is concerning for nonprofit beneficiaries, but it would be even more problematic if political campaigns were allowed to tap into gaming revenues.
 - This amendment makes it clear that no game of chance, lottery, or gaming activity may be used to support, finance, or influence any political campaign, candidate, or organization—with the exception of raffles, which are explicitly exempted.
-

Why This Matters

- North Dakotans never envisioned gaming would be used to finance political campaigns.
 - Gaming money is already difficult to trace—adding politics to the equation would make oversight even more challenging.
 - Reinforces public trust by ensuring a clear separation between gaming and politics.
-

As with all constitutional measures, passing this resolution would place the amendment on the ballot for voter approval. I respectfully ask for a "Do-Pass" recommendation. I am available to answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,
Senator Sean Cleary
District 35
(701) 426-4618