

**TESTIMONY TO THE
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

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North Dakota Association of Counties

REGARDING APPOINTED BOARD BUDGETING

Chairman Heller and members of the ACIR – NDACo shared this bill draft with several seasoned county auditors and commissioners in order to provide input. Their initial reaction was one of support, with two comments:

- The February first date for boards to file financial reports for the preceding year, and especially budgets for the upcoming year, could be problematic. This would be asking these volunteer boards to project the next year’s revenues and costs after only one month of the current budget year. The common practice for counties is to begin budgeting for all boards and departments in mid-summer, so information obtained in February would likely go unused for a number of months anyway. It was suggested that “February first” be changed to “*August first, or at an earlier date if requested by the county commission*”.
- It was pointed out that three of the district boards included in the bill represent separate political subdivisions created by an election with board members that are elected by the citizens of those districts. It was noted that these district boards (identified below) are analogous to township boards. With over 130 Ambulance/EMS districts and over 600 Fire Districts, not only would shifting the final budgeting responsibility to the county commission be extremely cumbersome, it would, in almost every case, shift the authority to tax to a board whose members aren’t all subject to that tax.

SECTION 10 (Rural Ambulance Service District) 11-28.3-06...Permanent organization must be effected by the election of a board of directors consisting of not less than five nor more than ten residents of the district.

SECTION 13 (Fire Protection District) 18-10-04...Permanent organization must be effected by the election of a board of directors consisting of not less than five residents of the district, at least one of whom must represent each township.....

SECTION 16. (Hospital District) 23-30-04...the electors residing within the boundaries of the district shall, by approval of a majority of those present, establish election procedures and elect a board of directors of the hospital district.....