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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1309

2005 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1309

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1309

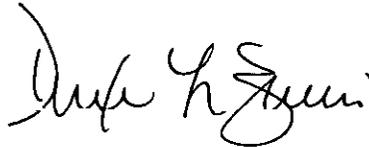
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1/28/05

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		0-35.6

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes: HB The nomination for elective office of an individual by more than one political party.

14 members present, 0 absent.

**Rep. Glasheim-District 18 Pt, Grand Forks-**Current law prohibits any person from being listed on any more than one political party line for an office. What I am trying to accomplish in this bill is to allow a person to be nominated by more than one party, so for instance you could be nominated as libertarian and a republican for the same office or as a green and a democrat or libertarian and democrat. Right now the law prohibits you from being nominated by more than one party. Frankly, there are people that we know in Grand Forks, many of you will remember Stella Fritsell, who was a Republican, but the Democrats thought very highly of her. I suspect if we would have been allowed to, the Democrats would have nominated her as well as the Republicans. How come why, what is the point of it. This is a difficult case to make, because we are used to the two party system. Two parties have a central lock on the election and all of you are one of the two parties. I look at this as promoting a more precise way of counting voters

intentions. Right now if want to vote for some who has a chance of winning, you vote for one of two parties. Our system doesn't give minor parties a voice or chance to be heard. It doesn't give them and electoral voice to be heard. If you are allowed to be nominated on more then one line, this would mean, once the votes are counted, you would know the people who identify, where your support comes from, not just broadly Republican or Democrat, a more narrow segments. I see as essentially opening up the free market place of ideas. Right now we have, the law, which makes it impossible to express your wishes more precisely. The law makes it that I couldn't vote Republican. I want to vote Democratic, but I also wish to vote Republican. The law makes it very difficult to vote for Libertarians or Green or Pro Life Line or whatever and it almost mandates you into one of the two main parties. I think if you are allowed to be on several lines, or one of two lines, it would open up more discussion and debate for the electorate. If this passes, I don't expect huge changes, I expect we are still going to elect Democrats or Republicans. I do think, over five, six, eight years, it would start to give minor parties a little bit more ability to get into the fray. I think we should make this possible. I don't see it happening very often and I don't see the harm, either and it does open up the possibility that a minor party might be strengthened and have a louder voice in the election process. The Secretary of State will let us know if there are any problems. The question arises, what happens if you are nominated as a Libertarian and a Republican and somebody votes for you twice and obviously that can't be allowed. If you would vote for Bush and Kerry, I am sure your vote wouldn't count. This is not attempt to get your vote to count twice. If I am nominated for Green and nominated for Democrat and I get 50 votes as green and 200 votes as Democrat, I received 250 votes.

**Rep. Galvin:** They only time you are restricted to one party is the primary, so wouldn't you already have this ability in the general election.

**Rep. Glasheim:** In the primary you can only vote for one party, but the repealed is a section of law which says that you can only be listed on one party, even in the general election, so current law prohibits you from being listed on more than one party.

**Rep. Klemin:** So hypothetically, you got nominated by ten different parties, you could have your name on the ballot ten different times.

**Rep. Glasheim:** Hypothetically.

**Rep. Klemin:** All those votes would be counted as aggregates, so lets say we want to divide republicans up into conservative republicans and moderate republicans and liberal republicans, you could have three different republican groups nominating the same person and his name would be on the ballot three times. The next election the democrats would have three also, and what have got.

**Rep. Glasheim:** That is right, now again you can exaggerate hypothetical, silly, but on the other hand, as a candidate wouldn't it be interesting to know who your supporters really are. I doubt the republicans are going to splinter into three parties, but suppose they were three lines, wouldn't you like to know if your supporters are 2% liberal republicans or 50% liberal republicans.

**Rep. Klemin:** Couldn't you do the same thing by exiting polling.

**Rep. Glasheim:** A vote is a vote, yes you can, but that is hypothetical and then you spin. This would be taking actual measure of the people.

**Rep. Conrad:** I find this is very interesting, when you have two people running for the legislature in the house and in my district 3, many times the democrats wanted to endorse Janet Wihn, but maybe not the other person, you could do that in this.

**Rep. Glassheim:** You are exactly right.

**Rep. Kasper:** On your proposal, Rep. Klemin hit it right on the head, ten parties could nominate and endorse one person and that persons name would appear on the ballot ten times, running against and opponent who has his or her name on the ballot one time. The unfair political advantage of that possibility, I think flies right in the face of what you are trying to do here. I can appreciate your desire, but look at the potential unfairness in a political election, for whatever party it might be.

**Rep. Glassheim:** I could see it could happen, are there ten parties, are people going to go out and organize parties just because of this. I find it a little far fetched, but it certainly could be. Why is that going to help a person, even if they are listed ten times.

**Rep. Kasper:** Because it would be the repetition of the name, not the name of the party. It would be the repetition of the name, the voter could think to himself or herself, this persons name is on here ten times and that person is only one, this guy has got to be better. Do you see the potential there.

**Rep. Glassheim:** What that means is whatever the platforms and various 10 parties represent, someone running against them the next time had better go out and reach some of those people and say that they want there nomination.

**Rep. Conrad:** This doesn't however change the political party requirements, because to become a political party, you have to go through many hoops and you have had to demonstrated your

ability to garner votes at an election, so you can't all of a sudden announce with your political party and get that respect.

**Al Jaeger-Secretary of State:** There is a chapter that very specifically addresses how political party gets established.

**Rep. Kasper:** If you are at the free throw line and you have two chances to make a free throw, compare you are at the free throw line at you have only one chance to make a free throw, what are your chances of , what are your odds of making the free throw, with one chance or the two chance?

**Rep. Glasheim:** They are exactly the same, same as flipping a coin, it is always one out of two.

**Rep. Kasper:** You have a better advantage when you have two shots at the free throw, instead of one.

**Rep. Glasheim:** I don't know about that.

**Chairman Haas:** Thank You very much. Any more questions.

**Rep. Kasper:** I move a Do Not Pass on HB 1309.

**Rep. Boehning:** I second.

**VOTE: 12 NO 2 ABSENT 0 DO NOT PASS.**

**REP. KASPER WILL CARRY THE BILL.**

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1309

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1/28/05

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
4	x		52.4-54.7

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes: HB The nomination for elective office of an individual by more than one political party.

14 members present, 0 absent.

**Chairman Haas:** HB 1309

**Rep. Kasper:** I move a DO NOT PASS.

**Chairman Haas:** Rep. Kasper moves a DO NOT PASS, Rep. Amerman seconds the motion. Is there any discussion. I will ask the clerk to take the roll.

**VOTE: YES 12 NO 2 ABSENT 0 DO NOT PASS HB 1309**

**REP. KASPER WILL CARRY THE BILL.**

Date: 1/28/05  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1309

House House Government and Veterans Affairs

Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Rep. KASPER

Seconded By Rep. Boehning

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman C.B. Haas	✓		Rep. Bill Amerman	✓	
Bette B. Grande - Vice Chairman	✓		Rep. Kari Conrad		✓
Rep. Randy Boehning	✓		Rep. Louise Potter	✓	
Rep. Glen Froseth	✓		Rep. Sally M. Sandvig		✓
Rep. Pat Galvin	✓				
Rep. Stacey Horter	✓				
Rep. Jim Kasper	✓				
Rep. Lawrence R. Klemin	✓				
Rep. Lisa Meier	✓				
Rep. Margaret Sitte	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 2

Absent ∅

Floor Assignment Rep. Kasper

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
January 28, 2005 12:31 p.m.

**Module No: HR-19-1327**  
**Carrier: Kasper**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1309: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (12 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
HB 1309 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.