

2015 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1284

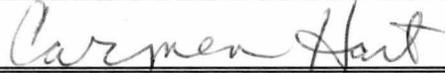
2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

HB 1284
1/23/2015
22439

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the contents of bond election ballots

Minutes:

Attachment: #1

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing on HB 1284.

Rep Larry Bellew, District 38, appeared in support of HB 1284. (:34-2:36)
(Attachment #1)

Rep. Steiner: We're looking at a few bills where we are doing away with mills possibly in the future. Is it possible to add something if mill is no longer used, that it automatically comes off without us having to come back and update the bill?

Rep Bellew: Perfectly fine.

Rep. Mooney: You're suggesting this information would be on the ballot itself? It would be published in the newspapers. Is that the idea?

Rep Bellew: If they have to publish the ballot in the newspaper, yes, it would be.

Rep. Mooney: It's just an exercise in trying to insure that we've done our due diligence to make sure the information is provided. Is that your intent?

Rep Bellew: That's my intent.

No Opposition

Neutral Testimony

Terry Traynor, Association of Counties, appeared in a neutral position. We felt the committee should know this isn't going to be an estimate, because whoever prepares the ballot, who probably will be the county auditor, is going to have to figure out what this might mean. Possibly a clarification on the intent--if this passes, the first year mill and cost per

1000 is estimated to be this, or if it's a 20 year bond, the 20th year or the average in between because obviously that will change quite significantly.

Rep. Wallman: If the taxable valuation changes at the 20th year, it's just giving you a snapshot on what the cost would be on your property the first year?

Terry Traynor: Yes, it would be an estimate of the first year.

Rep. Louser: It seems to me that the Association of Counties would constantly get these questions leading into an election. Is that correct?

Terry Traynor: It's been government's historic reliance on the third estate. The calls come from the newspaper. We rely on the press to tease out those issues. We are going to have a bond vote. What does it mean? How does that affect us? How big is the school going to be? How many kids are we going to serve? What's it going to cost the taxpayers to do that? Really that's the press's job to flush that out. The common citizen I don't think often calls.

Chairman Kasper: The calculation that Representative Bellew is asking to be done in this bill, it would appear to me that the counties or the school districts would know that number, because they have had to calculate the impact on their budgeting over the current year. Would that be a correct assumption?

Terry Traynor: You're absolutely correct. It is just take that number and divide it into that number and you are done.

Chairman Kasper: There are bills in this session that are converting from mills to dollars. If we just state dollars, that would be more clear to people.

Terry Traynor: That's correct. Mills are 1 thousandth of a dollar per thousand. The bill, however, does change your taxable value. The relationship to your true and full value gets dramatically different if that bill passes.

Rep. M. Johnson: This would suggest to the voter that their mills will increase?

Terry Traynor: That will be the cost of the bond.

Rep. M. Johnson: Which is confusing to a voter because they are going to look at this and say my mills are going to go up and my property taxes will go up. Because local government acts responsibly, their mills may go down. I think this is confusing because it suggests property tax will go up.

Chairman Kasper: This bill requires a statement of fact, regardless of what the budgeting process does for the bottom line.

Terry Traynor: I would agree with that.

Rep. Wallman: It doesn't necessarily mean you will have to add mills. The value may go up.

Rep. B. Koppelman: Would you agree that if there was a project like building a school, in some cases they could do that using a building fund or a general fund? In this scenario they could say this is estimated to increase your mills by zero which would equal zero dollars on a \$100,000 house?

Terry Traynor: I would agree that would be something they could do. Who puts that number in there? If it is a school bond vote, does the superintendent or the secretary of the school board tell the auditor if they are printing the ballot, this is the number we want in there or does the auditor just calculate the total bond by the mills? That's something I haven't thought about, but you're right.

Chairman Kasper: Are all municipalities and political subs included in here?

Terry Traynor: I really couldn't say.

Chairman Kasper: The bill does not say who does the calculation and that might be something to be considered.

Terry Traynor: That would be appreciated.

The hearing was closed.

Chairman Kasper: I think this bill needs some work as far as mills and taxable value.

Rep. Bellew: If this committee can make it better, do it.

Chairman Kasper: Anybody here willing to do some work on 1284, do some research?

A subcommittee was formed: Rep. B. Koppelman (Chair), Rep. M. Johnson, Rep. Seibel, Rep. Wallman

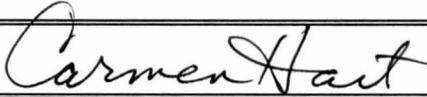
2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Fort Union, State Capitol

HB 1284
2/5/2015
23362

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the contents of bond election ballots

Minutes:

Attachment 1

Chairman Kasper opened the discussion on HB 1284. There was a subcommittee on this bill.

Rep. B. Koppelman Attachment 1 was handed out. It is an example from a local district on how this would be filled out. Originally when you had appointed the committee and you had asked for those who wanted to do further work on it, it was relating to how the form might be sold out differently if districts wanted to go out for permission to build a building but in some cases already had the funding and didn't want to sell bonds for that funding. It turns out that if they go through that they use a different part of the law to do it. Therefore, there really isn't variation to this piece. When trying to deal with mills versus percentage, I kind of hit a dead end to give the committee any examples on how that would be worded.

Chairman Kasper We don't need the amendments that you were thinking we needed?

Rep. B. Koppelman We do not. Because I didn't have that available, I really didn't have anything to give the subcommittee to do.

Rep. B. Koppelman made a motion for a DO PASS.

Rep. Dockter seconded the motion.

Rep. M. Johnson I was hoping for an amendment that changes on Line 12. Take out "an estimated" and add "a possible" additional millage. The wordage here indicates to the voter that their property taxes will be raised when indeed they may not.

Rep. Mooney I would agree with Rep. M. Johnson's assessment.

The motion and second were withdrawn.

Rep. M. Johnson moved the bill be amended on Line 12 removing "an estimated" and adding "a possible."

Rep. Seibel seconded the motion.

Rep. B. Koppelman When you are selling bonds and you have to repay the debt, you are authorized because of the debt that you sold to raise the mills as much as you have to raise them to pay the debt service. Let's say they estimate the mills to be 10 mills, if their valuation plummets or declines, it could be possible 20, 30, 50. I don't know how you cap "possible."

Chairman Kasper Rep. M. Johnson, I think Rep. B. Koppelman is saying you want to be a little more specific on the bond issue itself.

Rep. B. Koppelman The sponsor of the bill wanted the best judgment of the individual who was preparing it. The intent is to inform the taxpayer of the likely consequences of this vote.

Rep. Laning We are arguing some antics. The mill levy can go up or down depending upon a number of things. Whether we call it "a possible" or "an estimated" I don't know that it matters. If everything else stayed the same, the bond is going to have an impact of increasing, but we can't say that everything is going to be the same when a taxpayer receives their statement with so many mills.

Rep. B. Koppelman He referred to his handout. My home school district used a bond they went through a few years ago and filled it out the way they would have filled it out had this law been in place at that time.

Chairman Kasper Your handout has the exact language that is in the bill--"resulting in an estimated additional millage".

Rep. Louser As a voter, I would look at "a possible additional millage" as a cap whereas "an estimate" is close to. I read that as up to. I prefer the language as is.

Voice vote. Proposed amendment fails.

Rep. B. Koppelman made a motion for a DO PASS.

Rep. Dockter seconded the motion.

Rep. Wallman I don't know exactly how you can get the terms of a loan ahead of knowing that the public is going to agree to give you the money.

Rep. B. Koppelman Your school district would typically go to a Moody and they would have a bond rating. Then they would look at a time period. Then they ask that bond company to give them an estimate. That is what gives them the amount to fill in the other two slots which is the estimated number of mills and the estimated amount on a \$100,000 home for example.

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

HB 1284

2/5/15

Page 3

A roll call vote was taken. 14 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Absent.

Rep. Seibel will carry the bill.

Date: 2-5-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1284**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By M. Johnson Seconded By Seibel

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper			Rep. Bill Amerman		
Vice Chair Karen Rohr			Rep. Gail Mooney		
Rep. Jason Dockter			Rep. Mary Schneider		
Rep. Mary C. Johnson			Rep. Kris Wallman		
Rep. Karen Karls					
Rep. Ben Koppelman					
Rep. Vernon Laning					
Rep. Scott Louser					
Rep. Jay Seibel					
Rep. Vicky Steiner					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:
Line 12, removing "an estimated" and adding "a possible"

Date: 2-5-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1284**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Koppelman Seconded By Dockter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Vice Chair Karen Rohr	X		Rep. Gail Mooney	X	
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Mary Schneider	X	
Rep. Mary C. Johnson	X		Rep. Kris Wallman	X	
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Jay Seibel	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Seibel

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1284: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1284 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2015 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1284

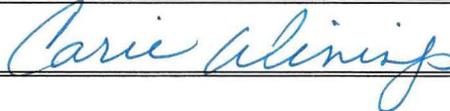
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1284
3/20/2015
Job # 25173

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 21-03-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the contents of bond election ballots.

Minutes:

Attachments 1 - 2

Chairman Dever: Opened the hearing on HB 1284.

Representative Bellew, District 38: See Attachment #1 for testimony as sponsor and in support of the bill.

(2:45) Chairman Dever: The \$1,000, when I see it publicized normally it is on \$100,000 of evaluation just so people understand that if they have a \$200,000 house it is double that.

Representative Bellew: The property taxes are figured at 9.5% of this figure. That is why it is per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. This bill can be adjusted if the mill levies get changed to dollars. There is a bill out there that was passed in the House that will change all of the mill levies on your tax forms to dollars.

Chairman Dever: I see that this is the original version of the bill.

Representative Bellew: The House did not amend it. I was under a deadline to get the bill in so there are no Senators on the bill.

Senator Cook: Should we have a line on there telling all the people that don't own property that it costs them nothing?

Representative Bellew: If you want to put that on there.

Senator Cook: I do not want to put it in there.

Representative Bellew: I have had that discussion with other property owners that think that maybe if we increase property taxes they think they should be the only ones allowed to vote and I said that our Constitution says that everyone 18 or older gets to vote.

Chairman Dever: Renters may realize that they will have their rent affected due to the property they live on being affected.

Senator Marcellais: Maybe we need to put it on a website somewhere to advertise the bond.

Representative Bellew: It was on the school district website. The students did not know the total effect of the bond issue. This was a class at the college.

Chairman Dever: How long was the bond issue for?

Representative Bellew: It was for 20 years.

(6:20)Donnell Preskey, North Dakota Association of Counties: See Attachment #2 for testimony from Kevin Glatt in opposition to the bill.

(6:43)Chairman Dever: Does the Association of Counties take a position or is this just auditor Glatt's position?

Donnell Preskey: Our auditor's association discussed it but we did not really have a clear position on the issue.

Chairman Dever: It appears that Kevin's objection is the cost of printing and programming.

Donnell Preskey: I believe that a few of his points that he made were more like the technical aspects of the bill and he had some issues with the wording of the bill.

Chairman Dever: It appears that he considers it to be extraneous verbiage.

Donnell Preskey: If you have questions for him I can get back to you.

Chairman Dever: Closed the hearing on HB 1284.

Senator Davison: Moved a Do Not Pass.

Senator Nelson: Seconded.

Chairman Dever: I am going to support the bill because I think voters should be informed of what they are voting on.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 2 yeas, 5 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Failed.

Senator Cook: Moved a Do Pass.

Senator Flakoll: Seconded.

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

HB 1284

03/20/2015

Page 3

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 5 yeas, 2 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Carried.

Senator Cook will carry the bill.

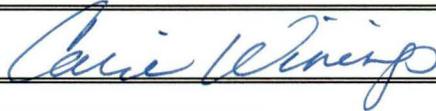
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1284
3/26/2015
Job # 25504

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Attachments 1

Chairman Dever: Opened HB 1284 for committee discussion.

Senator Cook: Moved to Reconsider.

Senator Flakoll: Seconded.

A Voice Vote Was Taken: All Were In Favor.

Motion Carried.

Chairman Dever: The reason we brought it back to committee is because we want to put an amendment on it that strengthens and clarifies the language in the bill.

Senator Cook: See Attachment #1 for an amendment proposed. The question is if sufficient mean that it has to follow this form and the answer I got back from Mr. Walstad was that it needed to be stronger to make sure that if there is a school bond issue that they also have to meet the requirements of HB 1284.

Chairman Dever: Part of the confusion was because on Line 10 it says to insert the name of the municipality.

Senator Cook: That is where the confusion came.

Senator Cook: Moved Amendment 15.0338.01001.

Senator Poolman: Seconded.

Chairman Dever: Is there any further discussion?

Senator Flakoll: How does this work if there is a school building authority, which is popular in Fargo, is that covered by that too?

Senator Cook: I would say no. School building authorities are used to avoid this.

Chairman Dever: This would apply to a bond election. If they are not having a bond election it would not apply. Are school elections in Fargo governed by the Century Code?

Senator Cook: It is not just Fargo. There are other places that have rejected school bond issues and created a building authority and built it without a vote.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Carried.

Chairman Dever: Is there any further discussion?

Senator Flakoll: Clarified a point on the amendment.

Senator Davison: Who decides "substantially" - who makes that decision of how that goes on there? Is that the auditor?

Chairman Dever: I would imagine. If it is not substantially the voter will decide.

Senator Davison: I thought the purpose was to make it transparent so that someone will decide that it is substantially close to this so that it would be more transparent to the voter so that they would understand. I thought that is what the purpose of the bill was.

Senator Cook: "Substantially", I would say is a subjective word and is in the eye of the beholder. Sometimes you may have attorneys on each side and they will make a great argument and if that is the case, then the subjective nature of the word will be determined by a judge.

Senator Davison: So typically in this, the wording is decided and it would be approved by the auditor?

Senator Cook: I would think so.

Senator Cook: Moved a Do Pass As Amended.

Senator Poolman: Seconded.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 1 nay, 0 absent.

Motion Carried.

Senator Cook will carry the bill.

March 23, 2015

3/24/15
JAC

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1284

Page 1, line 1, after "reenact" insert "subsection 2 of section 21-03-10.1 and"

Page 1, after line 3, insert:

"SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 21-03-10.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. ~~The~~ A bond election ballot form authorized in substantially the form prescribed in section 21-03-13 is sufficient must be used in a school district bond election. After approval of the initial resolution by the number of qualified electors required by section 21-03-07, the proceeds of the bond issue may be used only for the purpose and in the manner designated by the school plan except as herein provided."

Renumber accordingly

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1284**

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Davison Seconded By Nelson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever		✓	Senator Marcellais		✓
Vice Chairman Poolman		✓	Senator Nelson	✓	
Senator Cook		✓			
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Flakoll		✓			

Total (Yes) 2 No 5

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 3/00
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1284**

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Cook Seconded By Flakoll

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	✓		Senator Marcellais	✓	
Vice Chairman Poolman	✓		Senator Nelson		✓
Senator Cook	✓				
Senator Davison		✓			
Senator Flakoll	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 2

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Cook

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

3/24

Date:
Roll Call Vote #:

1

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1284

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Code Seconded By Flakoll

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever			Senator Marcellais		
Vice Chairman Poolman			Senator Nelson		
Senator Cook					
Senator Davison					
Senator Flakoll					

Voice Vote All in favor

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

3/26

Date:
Roll Call Vote #:

2

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1284

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0338.01001

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Cook Seconded By Poolman

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	✓		Senator Marcellais	✓	
Vice Chairman Poolman	✓		Senator Nelson	✓	
Senator Cook	✓				
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 3/24
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1284**

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Cook Seconded By Poolman

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	✓		Senator Marcellais	✓	
Vice Chairman Poolman	✓		Senator Nelson		✓
Senator Cook	✓				
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Cook

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1284: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1284 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1284: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1284 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "reenact" insert "subsection 2 of section 21-03-10.1 and"

Page 1, after line 3, insert:

"SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 21-03-10.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. ~~The~~ A bond election ballot form authorized in substantially the form prescribed in section 21-03-13 is sufficient must be used in a school district bond election. After approval of the initial resolution by the number of qualified electors required by section 21-03-07, the proceeds of the bond issue may be used only for the purpose and in the manner designated by the school plan except as herein provided."

Renumber accordingly

2015 TESTIMONY

HB 1284

#1
HB 1284
1-23-15

HB 1284 Testimony

I am introducing this bill to add an additional layer of transparency when it comes to bond election ballots. The current law is good, but I think in order to inform voters to a greater extent, additional information on the ballot should be provided. This is what this bill does.

This bill adds the number of years the bond issue is for, an estimated amount of increased mills, and the estimated amount of property tax increase per \$1000 of taxable valuation. I believe that this will inform voters to a greater extent as to what effect the bond issue will have on their property taxes and allow them to make a more informed decision.

I would like to see this pass for the following reason. In 2013, the Minot Public School District was going to have a vote on a bond issue for several new schools. I was approached by a student of Minot State University and asked several questions about the bond issue. I was appalled to find out that this student and his classmates did not know the effect of the bond issue or the number of years the bond issue would be in effect. This student informed me that he and his classmates thought the bond would last 4 or 5 years. I then asked him what would help him understand the effects of the proposed bond issue.

Thus, the bill before you. Thank you.

Rep. Bellew

#1
1284
2-5-15

Shall the West Fargo Public School District No. 6, Cass County, North Dakota, issue its General Obligation Bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$82,500,000 maturing within a maximum of 20 years resulting in an estimated additional millage of 27.50 mills equal to \$27.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for the first taxable year, for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other funds available, to expand, renovate, remodel and equip the 9th grade center into a high school; to construct and equip a new middle school and new elementary schools; to construct and equip additions to school buildings; to remodel, renovate, improve and equip school buildings; to purchase land and acquire property for school purposes; to make site improvements to school property; and to construct, remodel, improve and equip co-curricular and athletic facilities.

3/20

1
pg 1

HB 1284 Testimony

I am introducing this bill so that bond election ballots are more easily understood, in other words, to add an additional layer of transparency when it comes to bond election ballots. The current law is good, but I think in order to inform voters to a greater extent as to the overall effect of the bond issue, additional information on the ballot should be provided. This is what this bill does.

This bill adds the number of years the bond issue is for, an estimated amount of increased mills, and the estimated amount of property tax increase per \$1000 of taxable valuation for the first year. I believe that this will inform voters to a greater extent as to what effect the bond issue will have on their property taxes and allow them to make a more informed decision.

I would like to see this pass for the following reason. In 2013, the Minot Public School District was going to have a vote on a bond issue for several new schools. I was approached by a student of Minot State University and asked several questions about the bond issue. I was appalled to find out that this student and his classmates did not know the effect of the bond issue or the number of years the bond issue would be in effect. This student informed me that he and his classmates thought the bond would last 4 or 5 years. I then asked

#1
Pg 2

him what would help him and his classmates understand the effects of the proposed bond issue. Thus, the bill before you. Thank you.

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE GOVERNMENT and VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**
Prepared by Kevin J. Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer
3/20/15

HOUSE BILL 1284

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this testimony is in opposition to HB1284.

I am opposed to “must be separate from other ballots used on the same day for other elections” (line 7 & 8) as this will dramatically increase printing and programming costs and create additional administrative costs (training, handling, storage, etc.).

This bill requires ballot language to include “additional millage of ____.” What happens if the mills to cents bill is approved.

This bill also requires that “Spoiled or blank ballots cast at such election may not be counted for or against the proposed issue.” Why is this included in the bill? Spoiled ballots and blank ballots are never to be counted.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, I respectfully request a do not pass for HB1284.

3/26 #1

15.0338.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Cook

March 23, 2015

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1284

Page 1, line 1, after "reenact" insert "subsection 2 of section 21-03-10.1 and"

Page 1, after line 3, insert:

"SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 21-03-10.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. The bond election ballot form ~~authorized in substantially the form prescribed in section 21-03-13 is sufficient~~ must be used in a school district bond election. After approval of the initial resolution by the number of qualified electors required by section 21-03-07, the proceeds of the bond issue may be used only for the purpose and in the manner designated by the school plan except as herein provided."

Renumber accordingly