

2015 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1414

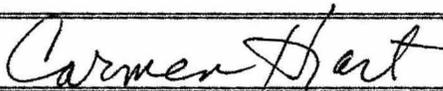
2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

HB 1414
1/29/2015
22861

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the form of the primary election ballot

Minutes:

Attachments 1-4

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing on HB 1414.

Rep. Tom Kading appeared in support. (:15- 2:46) Attachment 1

Rep. Karls I believe there are some districts in the state that just endorse by primary. This wouldn't affect those districts?

Rep. Kading Correct.

Rep. Amerman Was the constituent that requested you to submit this bill confused when he went to vote?

Rep. Kading He is very involved in the district committee and district party. He believed, and I think he is right in this. It helps validate the district party's efforts and the local district's efforts.

Rep. Steiner Would it say endorse by Democrat party, endorse by Republican party, or just endorsed?

Rep. Kading At the primary level I believe the ballot will say Republican House Candidates or Democrat. Behind it would be endorsed.

Vice Chair Rohr I have seen where a candidate might be endorsed but there may be another one that goes out and gets the signatures within the same party. Do you think it might sway the voter if they see endorsed versus the most qualified candidate?

Rep. Kading I don't think the intention is to sway anyone. The intention is to make sure the voter has all the information as to how that person got on the ballot.

Vice Chair Rohr Did you do any research in terms of any other states that might be doing this?

Rep. Kading I did not.

Rep. Seibel Did I hear that this would only be on the primary, not the general?

Rep. Kading Correct.

Opposition

Kevin Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer, appeared in opposition. Attachment 2. (06:27-07:28)

Donnell Preskey, ND Association of Counties, appeared in opposition. Attachment 3. (8:20-8:57)

Rep. Amerman This applies to the primary, so how do we know if the endorsed candidate would be the incumbent candidate?

Donnell Preskey This just hit me that this is just about the primary.

Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State, appeared in opposition. Attachment 4. (10:01-11:05)

No neutral.

The hearing was closed.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

HB 1414
2/12/2015
23739

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the form of the primary election ballot

Minutes:

"Click to enter attachment information."

Chairman Kasper opened the meeting on HB 1414. This bill deals with having the indication of endorsed candidate on the ballot.

Rep. M. Johnson The endorsed classification gives more validation to the efforts of the districts. The Secretary of State says adding these words would do nothing more than clutter the space and add confusion, yet the Burleigh County says that the ND electors are well prepared and able to select candidates. I know it happened also in District 41. The Democratic party had three candidates on their ballot and perhaps the endorsed classification on their two endorsed candidates would have clarified things. Hopefully, we will support this bill.

Rep. Mooney I would be in opposition of this bill. Some of the points that were made regarding adding more information on the primary seem to be duplicative. In ND we vote by party in the primary. I don't see any purpose to identifying this further.

Rep. B. Koppelman I spoke with the sponsor of the bill. The concept of the conventions is to allow candidates that go through that process and become endorsed to bypass the signatures required to get on the ballot. Once they have done that with their respective party they have that recognition of having got that. It is a lot tougher to go through and get your party's endorsement than it is to simply get some signatures. I am going to support this.

Rep. Seibel I am also going to support this bill. My only race was at the endorsing convention.

Vice Chair Rohr There also was testimony that we should also include incumbents. I think that is a very good point.

Rep. Laning Hopefully the endorsed candidate can get their name out. It is going to create a lot more hassle in preparing the ballots. It is something we don't need that badly.

Rep. B. Koppelman I don't necessarily agree with Rep. Laning. He made a motion for a DO PASS.

Rep. M. Johnson seconded the motion.

Chairman Kasper ND is primarily two parties. I am a party structure person. I value party's endorsement whether it is Democrat or Republican. I am going to support the bill, but I understand the argument on both sides. I think the auditors can handle it.

A roll call vote was taken. 7 Yeas, 7 Nays, 0 Absent. Motion fails.

Rep. Amerman made a motion for a DO NOT PASS.

Rep. Steiner seconded the motion.

Rep. Steiner We are all incumbents now. I think it looks a little self-serving. I am very uncomfortable with this bill.

Rep. B. Koppelman None of us should take for granted that our party is going to automatically endorse us next time.

Rep. Steiner When the public sees this, they are not going to draw the fine line between incumbent and endorsed. I think it does give an advantage.

A roll call vote was taken. 6 Yeas, 8 Nays, 0 Absent. Motion fails.

Rep. Seibel made a motion for a DO PASS.

Rep. Dockter seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. 9 Yeas, 5 Nays, 0 Absent.

Rep. M. Johnson will carry the bill.

Date: 2-12-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1414**

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 B. Koppelman Seconded By M. Johnson

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			

Handwritten notes:
 No fails
 10 fails

Total (Yes) 7 No 7

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 2-12-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1414**

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 Amerman Seconded By Steiner

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	<i>Motion Fails</i>		
Rep. Ben Koppelman		X			
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Jay Seibel		X			
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 8

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 2-12-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1414**

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 Seibel 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) 9 No 5

Absent _____

Floor Assignment M. Johnson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1414: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (9 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1414 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2015 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1414

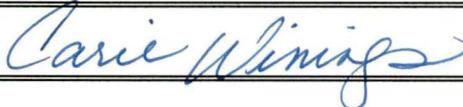
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1414
3/6/2015
Job # 24428

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 16.1-11-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the form of the primary election ballot.

Minutes:

Attachments 1- 4

Chairman Dever: Opened the hearing on HB 1414.

Representative Kading, District 45: See Attachment #1 for testimony as sponsor and in support of the bill.

(2:47)Chairman Dever: So your constituent did not feel that it was not transparent?

Representative Kading: He is involved in the district committee and he wanted to help get voters more information when they come in and see how the candidate was placed on the primary ballot.

Senator Flakoll: After I read this the third time, it occurred to me that this goes beyond legislative races?

Representative Kading: Yes it does. The state wide convention would be affected.

Senator Flakoll: How will that work with respect to the superintendent of public instruction because they are not endorsed but they receive a letter?

Rep. Kading: When we put this together that was not a consideration. That is something definitely to be discussed.

Senator Flakoll: This is for the primary only?

Representative Kading: Correct.

Chairman Dever: If the party endorses earlier in the spring and then we have a primary election because the candidate are chosen not just by the party but by the people of the

district that hold to that political persuasion. So, would some people get the impression that the expectation is that they should follow the endorsement?

Representative Kading: I do not think that is the intent. Being endorsed by a local district party can be a positive or a negative. It is more to give that information to the voter.

Chairman Dever: Some people would see it as that person being the established candidate.

Representative Kading: That is exactly correct and some would vote for that and some would vote against that.

Chairman Dever: In my experience across the state we have had different examples with the last redistricting where candidates were thrown into the same district and incumbents got the endorsement but other incumbents did not. I am not sure how that plays out with this kind of think. One of the longest serving members of the Senate in District 19 never accepted a party endorsement because he felt that we should always choose our candidates in the primary. I am not sure I feel about this.

(7:00)Kevin Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer: See Attachment #2 for testimony in opposition to the bill.

(8:01) Senator Flakoll: You were silent on the party affiliation; which certainly in some districts has a significant boost to how they are perceived one way or the other.

Kevin Glatt: I am silent on that and I think the current law is fine. If we are going to add party designation, I just don't believe we should add an endorsement. If we add an endorsement then lets add who the incumbent is and let's remove the rotation. I think the electors are sophisticated enough to select their candidates without any additional notations.

Senator Flakoll: Aren't the ballots in November on the general election really an endorsement of sorts for each of those political parties? Aren't we doing that to some extent already?

Kevin Glatt: I would agree. I just don't think that the law needs to be changed. I think the law is fine the way that it is.

Chairman Dever: I think the requirement is that you have to have a certain minimum number of votes even if you are endorsed. Which I think is 1% or 2% of the population. There was an election in Grand Forks in the past that two candidates fell short of that. It is not related to this except that if you have multiple candidates you could have no candidates in the end.

Kevin Glatt: That is accurate.

Donnell Presky, North Dakota Association of Counties: See Attachment #3 for testimony in opposition to the bill.

(11:50)Chairman Dever: The question of having your party affiliation behind your name is irrelevant in the primary because you either vote one party or the other.

Donnell Presky: As it stands, that is how the primary ballot is currently set up.

Chairman Dever: Some people don't understand the process and why they cannot vote across party lines.

Senator Flakoll: Just to be clear, I am talking about in the general election, which is not part of this bill, but in a way, it does show endorsement because you are the endorsed candidate of one party or the other. It is my belief that we do this to some extent.

(13:08)Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State: See Attachment #4 for testimony in opposition to the bill.

(15:55)Senator Cook: Did you testify against this bill in the House?

Jim Silrum: Yes we did and we even talked to Representative Kading. I talked specifically to him before the hearing expressing our position.

Chairman Dever: Closed the hearing on HB 1414.

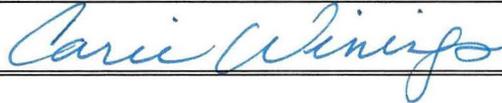
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1414
3/26/2015
Job # 25515

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

No Attachments

Chairman Dever: Opened HB 1414 for committee discussion.

Senator Poolman: Moved a Do Not Pass.

Senator Cook: Seconded.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 4 yeas, 3 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Carried.

Senator Poolman will carry the bill.

3/24

Date:
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1414

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 Poolman Seconded By Cook

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

Total (Yes) 4 No 3

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Poolman

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1414: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (4 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1414 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2015 TESTIMONY

HB 1414

Representative Tom Kading

District 45

1/29/15

#1 1414
1-29-15

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee - Fort Union Room

Chairman Kasper and members of the committee. For the record I am Representative Tom Kading from district 45 in north Fargo. I bring to you today house bill 1414 which is in regards to campaign law concerning the primary election only. A constituent of mine requested I submit this bill and I agreed to do so. The intent of this bill is to inspire greater transparency in the political process at the primary level.

Currently there is two basic ways to be placed on the primary ballot for a particular party. The first is to obtain a required number of signatures from the proper constituents. The second method is to obtain a endorsement from the local or statewide convention. For example, in district 45 the district 45 republican district committee endorsed myself and my running mate for the republican house candidate. Other districts use various processes. Both my running mate and myself were therefore placed on the primary ballot as we had been endorsed. If another person would have liked to still run to be the republican candidate in District 45 for the general election, they still could get on the primary ballot by getting signatures. Such a person may be someone not involved in the district party or someone who doesn't agree with the district party decisions.

What this bill would do is place the text "Endorsed" behind the individual's name that have been placed on the primary ballot via convention or district endorsement. There is no intent from this bill to place words such as "incumbent" on the primary or general election ballot. This "Endorsed" classification will help give more validation to the efforts of the district chairs/executive committees across the state and the state convention process through which candidates are endorsed. It will also provide additional information to the voter allowing him/her to support or reject candidates based on partisan endorsement.

Thank you and I will try to answer any questions.

2
1414
1-29-15

**TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT and VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Prepared by Kevin J. Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer
1/29/15**

HOUSE BILL 1414

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this testimony is in opposition to HB1414.

County auditors are non-party independent and impartial administrators of elections for the state of ND.

County auditors oppose this legislation as it may provide for an advantage to the endorsed candidate(s).

If this legislation is to move forward I would suggest that the bill be amended to include a notation indicating which candidate(s) is the incumbent.

I would also suggest that further amendments be made to remove the requirements of NDCC 16.1-11-27 (Arrangement of names on ballots) to eliminate the requirement that the arrangement of names on the ballot be determined by lot by the county auditor and further eliminate the requirement of alternating the names by an algorithm approved by the Secretary of State designed to ensure to the extent possible that each name on the ballot for an office is listed in each position order on an equal number of precinct ballots spread across the county.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee I respectfully request a DO NOT PASS for HB1414 as I believe the electors of the state of ND are well prepared and able to select candidates to represent them without notations being added to the ballot.

Testimony to the:
House GVA
1/29/15
Prepared by:
North Dakota Association of Counties

#3
1414
1-29-15

HB 1414: Relating to Form of Primary Ballot

Good Afternoon Chairman Kasper and Committee members, I'm Donnell Preskey with the North Dakota Association of Counties in which I represent the county Auditors Association. As you know our 53 auditors take the job of running elections seriously. They see HB 1414 compromising the true intention of a ballot being as neutral as possible, and therefore oppose the bill. Auditors say this proposal gives an unfair advantage to an endorsed candidate. Auditors suggest if a notation indicates which candidate is endorsed then the incumbent should also be noted. But again, the auditors believe the way to achieve a neutral ballot is to not include either of those notations.

ALVIN A. JAEGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

PHONE PAGE www.nd.gov/sos



SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

January 29, 2015

4 1414
1-29-15

PHONE (701) 328-2900
FAX (701) 328-2992

E-MAIL sos@nd.gov

TO: Chairman Jim Kasper and members of the House Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee

FR: Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State, on behalf of Secretary of State Al Jaeger

RE: HB 1414 – Endorsed Candidate Designation on Primary Election Ballot

The Secretary of State's office stands in opposition to this bill as it seeks to give an additional designation to some candidates and not to others. This doesn't seem to put all candidates listed on the political party primary election ballot on an equal playing field.

If those candidates who were endorsed by a political party are to have "endorsed" either next to or below the name of the candidate on the ballot, wouldn't it be fair to place "petitioned" in the same place for the candidate who circulated petitions? If the answer to this question is "Yes," we would ask the committee to remember how small the space is already for each contest on the ballot. Adding these words would do nothing more than clutter the space and add confusion to those voters who do not understand the different ways that a candidate is allowed to have his or her name listed on the ballot.

We request your consideration for a do not pass recommendation.

Representative Tom Kading

District 45

3/6/15

HB 1414 #1

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee – Missouri River Room

Chairman Dever and members of the committee. For the record I am Representative Tom Kading from district 45 in north Fargo. I bring to you today house bill 1414 which is in regards to campaign law concerning the primary election only. A constituent of mine requested I submit this bill and I agreed to do so. The intent of this bill is to inspire greater transparency in the political process at the primary level.

Currently there is two basic ways to be placed on the primary ballot for a particular party. The first is to obtain a required number of signatures from the proper constituents. The second method is to obtain a endorsement from the local or statewide convention. For example, in district 45 the district 45 republican district committee endorsed myself and my running mate for the republican house candidate. Other districts use various processes. Both my running mate and myself were therefore placed on the primary ballot as we had been endorsed. If another person would have liked to still run to be the republican candidate in District 45 for the general election, they still could get on the primary ballot by getting signatures. Such a person may be someone not involved in the district party or someone who doesn't agree with the district party decisions.

What this bill would do is place the text "Endorsed" behind the individual's name that have been placed on the primary ballot via convention or district endorsement. There is no intent from this bill to place words such as "incumbent" on the primary or general election ballot. This "Endorsed" classification will help give more validation to the efforts of the district chairs/executive committees across the state and the state convention process through which candidates are endorsed. It will also provide additional information to the voter allowing him/her to support or reject candidates based on partisan endorsement.

Thank you and I will try to answer any questions.

3/6

#2

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE GOVERNMENT and VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Prepared by Kevin J. Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer
3/6/15**

HOUSE BILL 1414

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this testimony is in opposition to HB1414.

County auditors are non-party independent and impartial administrators of elections for the state of ND.

County auditors oppose this legislation as it may provide for an advantage to the endorsed candidate(s).

If this legislation is to move forward I would suggest that the bill be amended to include a notation indicating which candidate(s) is the incumbent.

I would also suggest that further amendments be made to remove the requirements of NDCC 16.1-11-27 (Arrangement of names on ballots) that candidate names be rotated by an algorithm approved by the Secretary of State designed to ensure to the extent possible that each name on the ballot for an office is listed in each position order on an equal number of precinct ballots spread across the county.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee I respectfully request a DO NOT PASS for HB1414 as I believe the electors of the state of ND are well prepared and able to select candidates to represent them without notations being added to the ballot.

Testimony to the:

Senate GVA

3/6/15

Prepared by:

North Dakota Association of Counties

HB 1414: Relating to Endorsements on Primary Ballot

Chairman Dever and Committee members, I'm Donnell Preskey with the North Dakota Association of Counties in which I represent the county Auditors Association. As you know our 53 auditors take the job of running elections seriously. They see HB 1414 compromising the true intention of a ballot being as neutral as possible, and therefore oppose the bill.

Auditors say this proposal gives an unfair advantage to an endorsed candidate. Auditors suggest if a notation indicates which candidate is endorsed then the incumbent should also be noted. But again, the auditors believe the way to achieve a neutral ballot is to not include either of those notations. The question to ponder with this bill is this, is the recommended change to benefit voters or the candidates on the ballot?

ALVIN A. JAEGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

HOME PAGE www.nd.gov/sos



SECRETARY OF STATE
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#4 pg1

March 6, 2015

TO: Chairman Dick Dever and members of the Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee

FR: Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State, on behalf of Secretary of State Al Jaeger

RE: HB 1414 – Endorsed Candidate Designation on Primary Election Ballot

The Secretary of State and the agency's election staff believes that adding this designation to the ballot will confuse the voter and add text to the ballot taking valuable space.

A case could be made if it is acceptable for candidates endorsed by a political party to have "endorsed" either next to or below the name of the candidate on the ballot, then would it also be appropriate to place "petitioned" on the ballot for the candidate who circulated petitions to obtain ballot access. Even though it is a political party's primary election, it might still confuse the party's voters.

The North Dakota primary election is classified as an open primary election, which means that voters are given the opportunity to select the party for which he or she would like to cast votes in the privacy of the voting booth. Although the instructions on the ballot clearly indicate that a voter may only vote for the candidates from one of the political parties listed, the concept of not crossing between party ballots is not always understood by voters. It is quite likely that adding additional words such as "endorsed" next to or beneath the names of each such candidates will only cause voter confusion when voting in a political party's primary election.

Please note the screen shot of a partial mockup of the 2016 Primary Election Ballot, which is found on the second page of this testimony. Although actual candidate names are not listed on the mockup, it can be seen that there is very little space on the ballot for any additional text.

The Secretary of State requests your consideration for a do not pass recommendation.

CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT
PRIMARY ELECTION, JUNE 14, 2016

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA BURLEIGH COUNTY 1st Evangelical Free Church 7

ATTENTION! READ BEFORE VOTING POLITICAL PARTY BALLOT

In a Political Party Primary Election, you may only vote for the candidates of one political party. This ballot contains three political parties; one in each section. If you vote in more than one political party's section, your Political Party Ballot will be rejected; however, all other votes on the No Party and Measures Ballots will still be counted.

To vote for the candidate of your choice, you must darken the oval (●) next to the name of that candidate. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, you must darken the oval (●) next to the blank line provided and write that person's name on the blank line.

REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRATIC-NPL	LIBERTARIAN
United States Senator Vote for no more than ONE name	United States Senator Vote for no more than ONE name	United States Senator Vote for no more than ONE name
○ First and Last Name ○ _____	○ First and Last Name ○ _____	○ First and Last Name ○ _____
Representative in Congress Vote for no more than ONE name	Representative in Congress Vote for no more than ONE name	Representative in Congress Vote for no more than ONE name
○ First and Last Name ○ _____	○ First and Last Name ○ _____	○ First and Last Name ○ _____
State Senator District 07 Vote for no more than ONE name	State Senator District 07 Vote for no more than ONE name	State Senator District 07 Vote for no more than ONE name
○ First and Last Name ○ _____	○ First and Last Name ○ _____	○ First and Last Name ○ _____
State Representative District 07 Vote for no more than TWO names	State Representative District 07 Vote for no more than TWO names	State Representative District 07 Vote for no more than TWO names
○ First and Last Name 1 ○ First and Last Name 2 ○ _____ ○ _____	○ First and Last Name 1 ○ First and Last Name 2 ○ _____ ○ _____	○ First and Last Name 1 ○ First and Last Name 2 ○ _____ ○ _____
Governor and Lt. Governor Vote for no more than ONE set of names	Governor and Lt. Governor Vote for no more than ONE set of names	Governor and Lt. Governor Vote for no more than ONE set of names
○ First and Last Name 1 & First and Last Name 1 ○ First and Last Name 2 & First and Last Name 2 ○ _____	○ First and Last Name 1 & First and Last Name 1 ○ First and Last Name 2 & First and Last Name 2 ○ _____	○ First and Last Name 1 & First and Last Name 1 ○ First and Last Name 2 & First and Last Name 2 ○ _____

ALVIN A. JAEGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

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SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

January 29, 2015

TO: Chairman Jim Kasper and members of the House Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee

FR: Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State, on behalf of Secretary of State Al Jaeger

RE: HB 1414 – Endorsed Candidate Designation on Primary Election Ballot

The Secretary of State's office stands in opposition to this bill as it seeks to give an additional designation to some candidates and not to others. This doesn't seem to put all candidates listed on the political party primary election ballot on an equal playing field.

If those candidates who were endorsed by a political party are to have "endorsed" either next to or below the name of the candidate on the ballot, wouldn't it be fair to place "petitioned" in the same place for the candidate who circulated petitions? If the answer to this question is "Yes," we would ask the committee to remember how small the space is already for each contest on the ballot. Adding these words would do nothing more than clutter the space and add confusion to those voters who do not understand the different ways that a candidate is allowed to have his or her name listed on the ballot.

We request your consideration for a do not pass recommendation.

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