

2015 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2300

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2300
2/12/2015
Job # 23718

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-35.2-01, 54-35.2-02, 54-35.2-03, 54-35.2-04, and 54-35.2-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to transforming the advisory commission on intergovernmental relations into legislative management appointed task forces on intergovernmental issues.

Minutes:

Attachments 1 - 3

Chairman Dever: Opened the hearing on SB 2300.

Senator Unruh, District 33: Testified as sponsor and in support of the bill. See Attachment #1 for information pertaining to the bill. This bill basically restructures one of the interim committees that we currently have. It currently is set up as the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and I served as the Vice Chairman of that commission during the past interim. We were tasked with a couple of different items to study in that commission and as we moved through the process we met throughout the interim, it was very difficult for us to come any resolution on any issue. We had a hard time getting enough people there to have a quorum. We had disengaged members. (Reads the members from page 1 of the bill) You will notice that there are more local government folks that serve on that commission than there are legislators, which is one of the concerns with the way that the group is currently structured. The bill in front of you is my idea of what a restructure would look like for this commission to help make it more effective and provide more meaningful ideas and thoughts for the next legislative session. It would create a taskforce on intergovernmental issues. It would allow for this group to be picked by legislative management and they would study a directive of a bill or resolution that was introduced in the previous session and the taskforce would be composed by legislative management and would consist of political subdivision members and legislative assembly members. The legislators would have to outnumber the non-legislative members so that when an issue is brought forward there is support from multiple members of the legislature, not just the other members of the committee. Each individual taskforce would not need to meet throughout the entire interim. They could be given different deadlines by legislative management. Compensation would be given to legislative members and all of the other members on the committee would be reimbursed by their organization that they represent. Each taskforce would need to report their findings to legislative management once their work was completed and they had a recommendation.

(4:45) Chairman Dever: Do I understand that as each taskforce is established, then legislative management would determine who would be included in that?

Senator Unruh: That is on the top of page 2. One thing that I noticed in going through the bill, a Governor's designee was allowed to be a part of this commission during this last interim, and if we use the language in the bill now, I am not certain that legislative management would be able to have a Governor's designee on the committee or on the taskforce. If you as a committee find that appropriate, I think that could be added to the bill.

Chairman Dever: Are you thinking that it would be more effective to have members of the political subdivisions as a part of, or as we do other legislative interim committees that they come and give their testimony?

Senator Unruh: I think that it is vitally important to have these members of political subdivisions at the table with the legislators making decisions like this. That was a very valuable part of the commission and the part I did not want to lose. Originally I thought about simply eliminating the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations because I was not sure that we were being effective. I think that was just because we didn't necessarily have the right people at the table making the decisions and coming to a consensus with issues in front of us. I think it is valuable to have those voices at the table helping talk through the issues and not just standing at the podium telling us what their thoughts are, but talking them out and involving them in the process. I think that gives them some skin in the game.

Chairman Dever: Are we considering bills this session that came out of that commission?

Senator Unruh: We did recommend some pieces of legislation to this legislature. A lot of those issues that we covered in Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations were also considered by the interim taxation committee.

Chairman Dever: It appears you are striking the term "Advisory Commission" and if we put legislation forward, I am curious why we called it that?

Senator Unruh: That is a good point.

(8:25) Senator Cook, District 34: Testified in support of the bill. I was also on the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and I think this is a great solution to make that taskforce an effective taskforce. I also had the privilege to serve on the Governor's taskforce on property tax relieve and on that taskforce there was the Governor, two legislators, and the rest of the folks at the table were people that are on the front line. Counties and cities were represented. That was the value in the discussions that we had in that taskforce with the actual people that are on the ground and on the front line in local government. That is what made that a success. I also chaired the tax interim committee last session and we had a lot of tax issues and a lot of reform issues, the most valuable work that I thought came out of that committee was work that was done outside of the committee room where we sat in meetings with county auditors or whoever we needed to have that are on the ground. That is the value of this. There have already been 2

resolutions that came out of the advisory commission and they both have been introduced into political subs. We have passed them both out of the floor. They are ideal studies for this task force. One of them deals with the amount of local government. We have 20 some definitions of political subs in Century Code. (Refers to Attachment # 1 for list of political subdivisions) We have to get our arms around this. This is a very important as we bring some efficiencies into political subs. We need to get that section rewritten to know who and what they are. Legislators are not going to get this done right you need to have people from political subdivisions to get this done right.

(10:40) Senator Davison: Do you have an opinion about a Governor appointee on the taskforce?

Senator Cook: I don't know if we need that in there or not. We need to deliberate on that some. I am not all that concerned that the Governor has someone on it. My number one concern is the right people on the taskforce; people that understand the issue and want to find a solution to it.

Chairman Dever: I would imagine that if the Governor wanted someone on the taskforce, he could make his argument to legislative management and get that done.

(11:26) Terry Traynor, Association of Counties: Testified in support of the bill. The ACIR was something that the association worked very hard to have created by the legislature and has worked hard over the years to preserve it. There have been many efforts to remove it. I agree with the sponsor and with the previous testifier that the current structure has not been effective as we had hoped for the reasons that were explained. Largely we did not have the right people at the table for the right issues. It is a very broad group. Sometimes the issues that need to be addressed don't cover the waterfront. I think this is well worth the effort to try this mechanism in place of what we have now. I fear that we will lose the ACIR if we do not try to make it more effective and I think this does that. It will improve what we are bringing to the legislators every two years as far as local government issues.

(13:50) Chairman Dever: It sounds like to me that as it is currently structured, it has a general purpose, but with the taskforce it would bring people to the table that have a specific interest in a certain area.

Terry Traynor: That is exactly it.

(14:52) Blake Crosby, Executive Director, North Dakota League of Cities: See Attachment #2 for testimony in support of the bill.

(17:53) Chairman Dever: So, we are not eliminating it but we are repurposing?

Blake Crosby: Yes and I have great hope for the repurposing. I think it will be very efficient and very functional.

(18:26) Ron Merrit, Executive Director, Minot Park District: Testified in support of the bill. We did have a representative on the Governor's taskforce and we thought that went

very well and we were represented well. We support the language in this bill to change it into a taskforce.

(19:42) Larry Syverson, Chairman, Board of Supervisors of Roseville Township of Trail County: See Attachment # 3 for testimony in opposition to the bill.

(21:38)Chairman Dever: It does not seem to me that the issues that would come into the taskforce would necessarily be only from studies passed through the session but issues that might arise. Does that sound right?

Larry Syverson: I believe the bill calls for a study resolution to be picked up by the committee. Is that not what it says?

Chairman Dever: I will have to look at it more closely.

Senator Cook: That is the concept. I should also point out that legislative management can choose studies whether there is a study resolution or not. That is one think that is unique about the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Normal interim committees only study what has been sent to them. If they are going to study anything else they have to get permission from the head of legislative management. I think this is a good approach if there is a townships issue. They will be able to come to the table. This will keep it alive rather than lose the whole works.

Larry Syverson: I do see that value. We have come close to losing the commission several times.

Chairman Dever: We will have a conversation about how we can address your concerns when we address the bill in committee. If necessary, we will look at possible amendments that could better the bill. Closed the hearing on SB 2300.

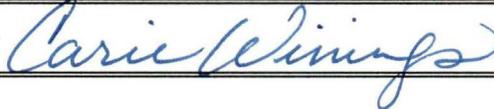
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2300
2/20/2015
Job # 24204

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Attachments 1

Chairman Dever: Opened SB 2300 for committee discussion.

Senator Poolman: See Attachment #1 for amendment proposed from Senator Unruh.
(Explained the amendments)

(3:42)Senator Poolman: Moved amendment 15.0801.02001.

Senator Flakoll: Seconded.

Chairman Dever: Is there any discussion?

Senator Cook: I was at the table when this idea was created. I can tell you how the words "time to time" were placed in the bill. John Walstad was looking for a way to avoid making this happen every interim. You could come to an interim where there are no issues so you wouldn't have to create these taskforces. This particular interim coming up, I would hope there are two or three issues at least that are going to go through these taskforces. To the issue of there needing to be a Governor's designee being on the taskforce or not; we came to the conclusion that there did not need to be. It is legislative and political subdivisions. I suppose the question arose because there is a Governor's designee on the existing board. It is fine either way.

Senator Nelson: Does this satisfy the townships concerns?

Senator Cook: Counties support the bill. The school board was not here opposed to the bill either.

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

Motion Carried.

Senator Cook: Moved a Do Pass As Amended.

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

SB 2300

02/20/2015

Page 2

Senator Poolman: Seconded.

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

Motion Carried.

Senator Cook will carry the bill.

February 19, 2015

2/19/15
JNL

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2300

Page 1, line 10, remove "from time to time"

Page 2, line 1, after "and" insert "may"

Page 2, line 2, after "subdivisions" insert ", the governor or the governor's designee."

Page 2, line 4, after "assembly" insert ", Task force appointees as representatives of political subdivisions may be selected from nominees of the North Dakota league of cities, association of counties, township officers association, recreation and park association, and school boards association"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/20
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2300

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 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 Code

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2300: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2300 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 10, remove "from time to time"

Page 2, line 1, after "and" insert "may"

Page 2, line 2, after "subdivisions" insert ", the governor or the governor's designee."

Page 2, line 4, after "assembly" insert ". Task force appointees as representatives of political subdivisions may be selected from nominees of the North Dakota league of cities, association of counties, township officers association, recreation and park association, and school boards association"

Renumber accordingly

2015 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2300

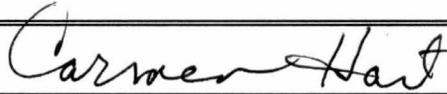
2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

SB 2300
3/19/2015
25153

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to transforming the advisory commission on intergovernmental relations into legislative management appointed task forces on intergovernmental issues

Minutes:

Attachments 1-4

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing on SB 2300.

Senator Jessica Unruh appeared in support of SB 2300. This tackles the restructuring of the advisory commission on intergovernmental relation issues. The way the ACIR committee currently is formed is there are four legislators along with other members of local political subdivisions. We found that it was difficult to get good discussion going on the commission, because we have one representative from cities, counties, townships, parks and rec, and school boards. All of those folks have very different interests, so when we would get a specific study initiative in front of our committee, there would usually be just one of those numbers that was actually interested in the topic that we were talking about. It wasn't very effective. We had a hard time meeting a quorum. I thought it would be appropriate to try and tackle these local issues a little bit differently. I am proposing that we change the ACIR commission over to a task force on intergovernmental relation issues. This would be a similar thought process that the governor had used for the property tax reform commission that he had during the interim. This task force would have representatives of political subdivisions, a member of the governor's cabinet, or the governor himself, and members of the legislative assembly. Let us say we would want to study a uniform chart of accounts for a particular group of political subdivisions. We can have a bunch of auditors at the table studying the issue and talking about what would work best for them, legislators at the table as well to try and work through the issues rather than having different viewpoints there. Legislative management would have the option to take any study that the legislature has put forward for the next interim and create a task force. That task force could meet long enough for them to come to a resolution on the issue in front of them. We could have multiple task forces during the interim, or we could have no task forces. Attachment 1 (amendment) was presented. That amendment just gives voting directive to the group.

Rep. Amerman On your amendment, would that require two different votes?

Senator Unruh No, it would just require that the subset of legislators would have to be a majority of them. It could be one vote of the entire task force, but a majority of the legislators would also have to support the initiative moving forward to legislative management.

Vice Chair Rohr Do you have history on this committee?

Senator Unruh I want to say it has been here for almost 30 years. We had five different initiatives coming from legislative management during this interim, and three of those overlapped with the taxation committee as well. We duplicated a lot of the work that they did in that group as well which is another inefficiency that I saw with the commission. Talking with my colleagues, I learned that there has been legislation introduced multiple times to get rid of the commission. I don't want to say complete in effectiveness, because that is not the case. There were certainly some issues that were discussed, and we did bring some good ideas forward. It does have value having these political subdivisions at the table. We thought it would be most appropriate to try and restructure and give it one more chance to do what is supposed to do.

Rep. Laning You have eliminated the requirement for 12 members, but do you establish anything in here regarding a minimum size?

Senator Unruh No.

Rep. Mooney If this passes through and this becomes our new construct for the commission and it is now in form of a task force and we have a number of resolutions, are you envisioning that some of those may be reassigned to a task force such as this for contemplation as opposed to going to the legislative management's slightly different process?

Senator Unruh This would be similar to one of the interim committees. It would be receiving resolutions from legislative management, and legislative management would be in charge of creating a task force and dissolving the task force.

Rep. Mooney That would follow along the line of those specific topics?

Senator Unruh One task force would be created for one study resolution. They would come to a conclusion and be dissolved. There could be two task forces happening at the same time consisting of different members.

Rep. Amerman I see no numbers for the subdivisions. How would that be handled?

Senator Unruh I refer you to Lines 5-8, Page 2. Those groups are where the members need to come from for the task forces. For example, if we were looking at the uniform chart of accounts as a task force, we would probably take all of the non legislative members from the association of counties group.

Rep. Mooney There is no fiscal note. How does that get absorbed into the financial aspect of a particular study by a task force?

Senator Unruh I will direct you to Section 4. Legislators will be reimbursed the same as they would be on any interim committee that they serve on. Members of political subdivisions would be paid by their political subdivision that they represent.

Chairman Kasper It sounds to me that this is very similar to an interim committee. What function can this task force do that an interim committee cannot do or could not do?

Senator Unruh This allows political subdivisions to be at the table to help legislators solve issues that we are not experts on. I think the original intent of the ACIR commission was very valuable in having those political subdivisions at the table. This task force just restructures it so those seats at the table can be more fully utilized.

Chairman Kasper Could not the same thing be accomplished through an interim committee whereby the interim committee asked these people to testify on the areas that might be pertinent to the item such as the chart of accounts?

Senator Unruh We tried this last interim. We haven't been able to come up with a solution to some of those issues, and I think having these people at the table with a vote and a voice and being able to be involved in committee discussion is very important.

Chairman Kasper The amendment says the majority of the legislators must vote to move something forward. How many other members are on that committee besides the legislators?

Senator Unruh There would have to be a majority of legislators on the task force and the remaining members would be from political subdivisions. The number of legislators would always be more than the members of political subdivisions.

Chairman Kasper Did you serve on just one of these task forces in the last interim?

Senator Unruh I served on the advisory commission which meant just as any other interim committee would meet.

Chairman Kasper You studied different functions during the last interim?

Senator Unruh We had about five different study topics.

Chairman Kasper Did any of those study topics result in any recommended legislation?

Senator Unruh Yes, we brought three pieces of legislation forward with at least two of those having the taxation interim approval on them as well.

Chairman Kasper That was a duplicate so to speak?

Senator Unruh Yes.

Donnell Preskey, North Dakota Association of Counties, appeared in support. Attachment 2. (18:03-19:45)

Rep. Louser Instead of 10 issues going to one committee, it is 1 issue going to 1 task force 10 times, 10 different task forces which would require different people each time. I am just wondering if the counties have enough willing members to participate?

Donnell Preskey Right now the representative that was serving on the ACIR was a recorder. If we have 10 different task forces going on at the time, maybe there is a couple that involve the auditor. Maybe there is one that is about jails where a sheriff would represent on. We have a grand pool of county officials being we have 53 counties in the state.

Rep. Louser Is that a yes?

Donnell Preskey I believe we have enough qualified people to serve on these task forces. I think they would be more willing to serve being there would be more of a focus on a particular issue.

Rep. Amerman Legislative management picks different studies. Would they have to name different task forces right away in case they don't meet within the next couple months? How would this work?

Donnell Preskey I don't know. That question might have been better suited for Senator Unruh. We were instrumental in bringing this idea forward. We do see the value of having county folks involved in a lot of these decisions. It is more of a working group versus a formal hearing group.

Blake Crosby, Executive Director of the North Dakota League of Cities, appeared in support. Attachment 3. (23:15-25:18) He answered Chairman Kasper's question. If you do it through an interim committee and it is some controversy in the topic, then you have those that have pitted against those that have not. Whereas in a task force, we are all coming together and try to come together to a reasonable conclusion. One that I have been pushing is minimum bid thresholds. This task force would work a lot better than what we are seeing in the exchange and the give and take in front of the committees that we have testified in front of on these minimum bid thresholds.

Rep. Amerman When all the studies are compiled and given to certain interim committees, would they have to make the different task forces at one meeting? How do you perceive management handling this?

Blake Crosby Legislative management is the driver of this. They are going to decide the structure and the format.

Rep. Amerman How is legislative management going to do it? I am sure they will do it.

Blake Crosby I would see this as legislative management picking the topic and picking the task force members. If we are dealing with an issue that has to do with auditors, the auditors would be there with boots on the ground.

Vice Chair Rohr How are you going to hold people accountable to attend the meetings if they haven't been attending thus far?

Blake Crosby The poor attendance was because they had no interest in the topic. This one is going to focus on a specific topic and is going to engage those people that have some interest in the topic. ACIR was very broad based.

Dana Schaar Jahner, North Dakota Recreation and Park Association, appeared in support. We think this is a better opportunity to try to move forward with issues.

Opposition

Larry Syverson, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Roseville Township of Traill County and Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association appeared in opposition. Attachment 4. (32:20-35:42)

Rep. Louser Is it your position that a task force would only be created under this new format based on a study that would be assigned to it through legislative management?

Larry Syverson That is my understanding.

Rep. Mooney Is SB 2024 a ACIR bill?

Larry Syverson Yes.

Rep. M. Johnson Should this pass and there is a subject that comes up through legislative management that is township specific, the townships would have greater representation and voting representation on a task force. Are you suggesting that this delineated group is better qualified to determine subject matter specific issues?

Larry Syverson I did point out that there were studies assigned to ACIR that were not a good fit, but there are many issues that the commission members might bring up in the beginning meetings of things that we see that we would like to work out with our counterparts and not have to win a legislative battle to get them studied.

Chairman Kasper You are saying we would have to have a bill or resolution to be able to appoint the task force under this bill. Currently, your group or any other group could go to legislative management or go to this task force that is currently in effect and say here is an issue we would like to study and they then could pick it up. Is that the way it works now?

Larry Syverson Yes. For example, 2024 came about during a discussion during one of the early meetings. We started looking into it and found there was a problem because of an attorney general's opinion regarding the authority to give the zoning back. We worked a little bit on it and came up with a solution which apparently had merits, because it passed without any opposition.

Chairman Kasper If we amended this bill on the top of Page 2 where it says "based on a study directive of a legislative bill or a resolution" by adding some type of language in there

that says "or a request from stakeholders or interested governmental entities or parties," that would now open it up so you could still request but the legislative management could narrow the focus. Would that solve your problem if it were changed slightly that way?

Larry Syverson I believe that would. I would imagine that legislative management could again broaden the membership to include the cities and counties to come in on a township basis, because we have brought each other's jurisdictions and we have to know what is going on across the border.

Chairman Kasper This is the way I would see that issue working. You would go to the legislative management and ask them to study this and would like them to consider bringing in these various groups. Legislative management then has to make a decision, but it allows them to do that and it allows you to give the input of what you would like to see on the task force.

Larry Syverson Yes, that sounds like a very workable situation.

Rep. Amerman Can you draft legislation to bring forward?

Larry Syverson The chairman of the ACIR is also a legislator. Normally, we had four on the committee. We did have legislators that could introduce bills for us anyway.

Rep. Amerman Now you would have to wait? If there are issues, you would have to lobby for studies and so on before you could even address the issue?

Larry Syverson That is the way I understand it. The ACIR, as it stands now, actually only suggests legislation to legislative management. Legislative management has to accept our suggestions before they are actually introduced.

Rep. Wallman If this bill had two amendments, you would be okay? The first one is that member groups that are listed can request a study. The second one is that member groups can recommend the makeup of the task force based on those member groups.

Larry Syverson Yes, on the first one. As far as requesting membership on it, that would not have to be our call. It was just my thought that is what they could possibly do.

Rep. Wallman Make recommendations?

Larry Syverson Yes.

No neutral.

The hearing was closed.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

SB 2300
3/20/2015
25222

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to transforming the advisory commission on intergovernmental relations into legislative management appointed task forces on intergovernmental issues

Minutes:

"Click to enter attachment information."

Chairman Kasper opened the meeting on SB 2300. What are your thoughts on this?

Rep. Louser I really like the idea of the task force in general. Having the gentleman that was opposed to the bill agree that if some concessions could be made that wouldn't restrict that group completely to a study resolution that would be before them, I think if we could get some wording to amend the bill, the concept seems to be pretty sound.

Rep. B. Koppelman I don't know if we want to amend it in such a way where they are able to force us to study them.

Rep. Steiner I have a problem with the legislature giving away part of its power of control on committee work. This has been around a really long time, but it was advisory commission, and it was advisory to the legislature. You are going to have four or five county auditors with legislators. You are changing the structure. I think it is a monumental change. We have our interim committee structure, and I would like to stay closer to that model. I don't agree that the governor should have set up the property tax task force that he did, because it was outside of our purview. We set the state policy eventually. He did some great work with it, but technically that was our job to do. If he keeps doing these task forces on various issues, our interim committees become less influential, and I see a shift of our power to other groups which I don't believe is the right way to take.

Rep. Wallman Can ACIR as it stands now hear testimony?

Chairman Kasper I don't think they probably take testimony. I think they have discussion.

Rep. Mooney I like the idea of a task force. We are becoming overloaded with interim studies. There are probably a lot of good studies that are going to crash, because we don't

have enough resources and time to do it in. The idea of a task force allows us to have the ability to react more quickly. I like the idea with the task force for property tax reform. I liked that all the right players were brought to the table. There was enormous publicity that was brought to it. A lot of intelligent discussion went into it, and the public was very in tune with what was going on. Yes, we were outside of it slightly, but at the same time I think that it fell in very nicely with our own processes.

Rep. Laning I don't see this as a loss of our legislative authority since our legislative management will appoint these task forces. The task forces are intended to be a targeted type thing and not a broad scope. I don't even know that we would need to amend it. If these local public entities have a desired subject, they can go to legislative management and request the task force be assigned to do these things.

Rep. Louser It seems like the legislators are kind of charged with being referees in listening to an intergovernmental discussion. I would compare this to the subcommittee that we just heard did good work. They have a specific issue. They bring in the appropriate players and resolve the issue. I like the idea of the task force in particular in replacing this commission, but I don't want to see that happen to the interim committees that are standing.

Rep. M. Johnson I would jump at the opportunity to streamline and make government more efficient, and I believe that is what this bill does. Senator Unruh's testimony indicated that the way it is now is very inefficient.

Rep. Seibel I am looking at the amendment Senator Unruh had presented. Does that mean there are going to be two separate votes? What happens if one agrees and one disagrees?

Chairman Kasper Both groups have to vote in the majority to propose any legislation, on a single vote.

Rep. Steiner This amendment makes it a little more palatable to me, although I'm still not crazy about it.

Chairman Kasper They walked through the bill and the amendment. (10:48-15:40)

Rep. Louser Page 2 Line 22 is what the current function of this commission is. It allows for, any time in the interim, somebody to bring an issue up for discussion. This would be a fairly large change, because as they mentioned, they are going to have lobby for a study in order to get it into a task force during the next session. They don't have that flexibility as far as say it is an even numbered year in a July meeting and they say we have an issue we want to discuss. That couldn't be done under this new format. Am I reading that properly?

Chairman Kasper The way I understand it legislative management is going to give them a directive of what they are going to study and give them a parameter, and they are going to stay within the scope of that directive.

Rep. Wallman Line 10 Page 1, it says legislative management may appoint a task force. If two political subdivisions are having an issue in a year when they can't lobby and bring a bill forward, it seems like it would be useful for them to be able to request one. I was going to propose an amendment to the top of Page 2. ...at the request of at least two task force representatives.

Chairman Kasper You are assuming there is already a task force, so it would have to be a little bit different approach.

Rep. Wallman Okay. I found it compelling in the testimony that there were two entities that were trying to hash something out, and it was very effective for them to be able to request that in a timely way and have it worked out. In my view that speaks to government efficiency, and I would like to find a way for us to add that in without having legislative management be forced to do anything which I don't think the way this bill is written they would have to anyway.

Rep. Steiner If there is a problem, the township association can call a task force among their own members. In this bill we are allowing them to access legislative council. In an amendment where we allow them entry into our system, they can also access the money on the end of the bill. I have a real issue with opening that up to that level.

Rep. Wallman Legislative management can say no. I think there is a pretty significant gatekeeper there.

Rep. Dockter made a motion to adopt the amendment.

Rep. B. Koppelman seconded the motion. I think this is an important amendment, because I don't know that it would be the right process for members of political subdivisions to let's say all vote in favor of an amendment and then have all the legislators vote against it, and suddenly that becomes a recommendation to the legislature.

Voice vote. Motion carries.

Rep. Mooney Could we on Line 1, Page 2 after bill or resolution insert something along at the request of potential appointee representatives. She made a motion for this amendment.

Rep. Wallman seconded the motion.

Rep. B. Koppelman If this is an amendment, I will probably resist. Mr. Syverson wants to have access throughout the interim, but what we have talked about here is that the only way they could make that request is if we have a current task force and assuming that the current task force already had their individual political subdivision represented. This makes such a narrow purpose. I think the whole concept is going to be a little bit clunky in the sense that it is not always going to apply to a task force, and you might have task forces veering way off course to try to accommodate these requests.

Chairman Kasper If the legislative management appoints the task force, they are going to give them directive just like the interim committee does.

Rep. B. Koppelman Would legislative management have the authority to task one of these or change it midstream just generally?

Chairman Kasper I believe legislative management would have the authority to set up a separate task force at a time when a hot issue just comes up.

Rep. B. Koppelman This does not allow legislative management to appoint a task force anytime other than following a legislative session where we give them a directive through a bill or resolution.

Chairman Kasper Correct.

Rep. B. Koppelman That is the one time in which they have authority to use this task force mechanism. It completely defeats the purpose of doing an amendment like this, because it doesn't make it good for the whole interim.

Chairman Kasper Let us talk about what has happened in the past. Many times over the interim where the legislative management establishes an interim committee and gives them the scope of their directives, and in the middle of the stream they add something to it. They have the authority to do that.

Rep. Louser I read it a little bit different. A task force is attended by its nature to handle an issue as it arises. I would think that legislative management would have the authority in the middle of the interim to appoint a task force that may last two months and dissolve.

Chairman Kasper Certainly.

Rep. Amerman When we sine die, we are done, and the studies go to the management. During the interim even as legislators, we can't make up another study. With the proposed amendment, two of these stakeholders could come up with something and try to get it studied.

Chairman Kasper I agree the logical conclusion of legislative management is to set up the interim committees and any task forces right after we are done. This does not state that you must do it immediately after the session is over. They could set up a task force if the need arises. I don't think they would do it very often. I sort of like the bill with the first amendment the way it is.

Rep. B. Koppelman My point is the scope of the task force or interim committees is limited to what the legislature deems appropriate.

Chairman Kasper That is correct. An example is the health review and reform committee and the affordable care act. You set up a task force to study certain items that you delineate. Let's say the supreme court makes a decision that has a huge impact on the affordable care act, and they have a big decision before them which probably won't be

made until June, but we are out of here. If something occurred and the decision was by the legislative management that needs to be added to the study, they have the authority to do that.

Rep. M. Johnson Issues aren't always black and white. The bill is trying to keep out unrelated issues.

Chairman Kasper Good observation.

Rep. Louser Doesn't the commission as it stands now have the ability to accept those issues midstream?

Chairman Kasper I think so.

Rep. Louser The amendment that was proposed wouldn't change that.

Chairman Kasper The bill itself is going to change it. The amendment is going to be sure that the result has to have a majority of legislators to vote for it to move forward.

Rep. Louser I am referencing the amendment that Rep. Mooney had presented. It is still allowing for those issues to be brought forward to the task force midstream as opposed to having to be preassigned by this body.

Chairman Kasper Sure.

Rep. Mooney I remember an incident during the interim period. There was a topic we were assigned that we needed to study, and a side shoot of that arose that was very germane yet slightly different like the coke-pepsi analogy. Coming back to that idea and also tied to some of the concerns that Larry Syverson with the township association has had, I am wondering is that really inherent in the ability of the task force to be able to make that decision anyway? Last year perhaps the chairman could have gone and lobbied to legislative management that we need to take this into _.

Chairman Kasper The chairman can always go to legislative management and ask to have the scope expanded because of new information.

Rep. Mooney If the township association felt really seriously that their concerns were not being addressed, they would have a lobby process through correct various _?

Chairman Kasper Correct. They always do.

A roll call vote was taken on Rep. Mooney's amendment.

Motion fails. 2 Yeas, 11 Nays, 1 Absent.

Rep. Wallman The committee felt that without Rep. Mooney's amendment, the same thing could still be done?

Chairman Kasper Yes.

Rep. Amerman I kind of agree with what Rep. Steiner was saying. I think this task force thing is going to be a mess.

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

Rep. Laning seconded the motion.

Rep. Wallman Page 2, Line 1, when is the definition for a study directive?

Chairman Kasper That would be a study that we pass here. That is a study directive.

Rep. Wallman Where in the bill is the possibility then of one of these sort of pools of appointees so the league of cities, etc. can request a task force not during the legislative session?

Chairman Kasper When we adjourn, we will have had a body of work of bills and resolutions that passed and failed. Legislative management is going to look at all the bills and resolutions that have passed and they are going to come up with the interim committees and assign the directives to each interim committee. During that period of time I would suspect they might be contacting legislative management and requesting to expand the scope.

Rep. Wallman If there is something that two of these entities would like taken up by a task force, they can do that at any time, but with this bill they would have to only be talking or wanting to have a task force on something that is already in a bill?

Chairman Kasper I would suggest that with the broad scope of bills that we pass in any legislative session, it is almost unlimited that a bill that we passed that they could cite the bill and say this was in the bill and we really need that as a task force.

Rep. Laning We have so many interim committees already, and they cover a wide variety of topics. A political subdivision could go to one of those interim committee meetings and propose something. That chairman could then go back to legislative management and say this isn't really in line with what we are doing, but it has merit. Legislative management at that time could agree and appoint a task force.

Rep. Steiner We have a governor who came from the legislative process. He has taken on school equity and property tax reform, and he has duplicated what we do as an interim legislative process. In how he brings in all those members, the legislators are a minority, and it is diluting our ability. I will support it now with the amendment that the legislators have that control, but I hope the governor does not continue to create these large task forces where we are sitting on the outside.

Rep. M. Johnson Does the governor act outside the bounds of executive authority in creating the task forces?

Rep. Steiner I imagine he can set up committees, but I think ultimately we are the ones who have to approve the policy. We need to have more input at the beginning where they get on the train versus just be handed the product at the end of the tracks.

A roll call vote was taken. 11 Yeas, 2 Nays, 1 Absent.

Rep. Steiner will carry the bill.

March 19, 2015

AO
3-20-15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2300

Page 4, line 12, after "appointed" insert ". A majority of the members of each task force and a majority of the legislative assembly members of each task force must vote in favor of any proposed legislation before the proposed legislation may be recommended to the legislative management"

Re-number accordingly

Date: 3-20-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2300**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0801.03001

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 Dockter Seconded By Koppelman

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					

*Vote
 Johnson
 McCaskey*

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 3-20-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2300**

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 Mooney Seconded By Wallman

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) 2 No 11^m

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

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

Add the language after the word resolution on Line 1, Page 2 or at the request of the Political subdivisions, League of Cities, etc.

Date: 3-20-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2300**

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 Lanning

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 Lanning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	—				
Rep. Jay Seibel	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 11 No 2

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Steiner

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2300, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2300 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 4, line 12, after "appointed" insert ". A majority of the members of each task force and a majority of the legislative assembly members of each task force must vote in favor of any proposed legislation before the proposed legislation may be recommended to the legislative management".

Renumber accordingly

2015 TESTIMONY

SB 2300

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

The following table provides information requested by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations relating to various subdivisions. The commission requested information specific to whether a particular board was appointed or elected; had levy authority, special assessment authority, audit requirements, a utility fee schedule, bonding authority, or eminent domain authority; and specify the chapter of the North Dakota Century Code where the corresponding law could be located.

Political Subdivision	Elected	Appointed	Special Assessment District	Utility Fee Schedule	Audit Requirements ¹	Century Code Reference	Levy Authority	Eminent Domain Authority	Bonding Authority
Area career and technology center		X			S	15-20.2			
Board of adjustment for airport zoning regulations		X			N	2-04-10		X	
City commission	X		40-22-01		S	40-15	X	X	
City council	X		40-22-01		S	40-08	X	X	
City job development authority		X			C	40-57.4	X		
City or county airport authority		X			C	2-06	X	X	Combo - Nonspecified
City park district	X		40-49-12		S	40-49	X		
City special assessment commission		X			N	40-23-01			
City weed board		X			C	4.1-47	X		
City zoning commission		X			N	40-47-06			
Commerce authority		X			C	11-37	X	X	Combo - Nonspecified
County clinic association					N	23-18.1			
County commission	X				S	11-11	X		
County fair association					C	4-02	X		
County hospital association		X			N	23-18	X		
County hospital district					N	23-30	X		
County job development authority		X			C	11-11.1	X		
County nursing home authority		X			N	23-18.2	X		Combo - Nonspecified
County park district		X	11-28.1-05	X	C	11-28	X	X	
County planning commission		X			N	11-33-04			
County recreation service district	X		11-28.2-04		S	11-28.2	X		
County social service board		X			C	50-01.2	X		
County soil conservation district	X	X			S	4-22	X		
County special service district		X	11-28.1-05		C	11-28.1			
County vector control district		X			C	23-24	X		
County water resource board		X	61-16.1-17, 61-16.1-21		C	61-16	X	X	
County weed board		X			C	4.1-47	X		
County/city health board		X			C	23-35	X		
Firefighters relief association					S	18-05			

Political Subdivision	Elected	Appointed	Special Assessment District	Utility Fee Schedule	Audit Requirements ¹	Century Code Reference	Levy Authority	Eminent Domain Authority	Bonding Authority
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District	X		61-24.8-02, 61-24.8-03		S	61-24	X	X	Direct - Revenue/ refunding
Health district		X			S	23-35	X		
Housing authority (city/county)		X			S	23-11		X	Direct - Nonspecified
Irrigation district	X		61-09		S	61-07	X	X	Direct - Nonspecified
Joint airport zoning board		X			C	2-04-03		X	
Joint county park district		X		X	C	11-28	X		Via governing body
Joint county planning commission		X			N	11-33-19		X	
Joint water resource district					S	61-16		X	
Library board		X			C	40-38	X		
Multicounty social service districts		X			C	50-01.1-02			
Multidistrict special education unit		X			S	15.1-33			
Municipal arts council		X			C	40-38.1	X		
Municipal parking authorities		X			C	40-61	X		Direct - Nonspecified
Northwest Area Water Supply Project		X			?	61-24.6		X	
Nonprofit historical societies					C	11-11-53	X		
Port authority		X			N	11-36	X	X	Combo - Revenue/ general obligation
Public recreation system		X			C	40-55			Via governing body - Nonspecified
Public school board	X				-	15.1-09	X	X	
Public school district	X				S	15.1-07			
Regional airport authority		X			S	2-06-03	X	X	
Regional correctional center					S	12-44.1			
Regional education association		X			15.1-09.1-07, 15.1-09.1-08	15.1-09.1			
Regional planning and zoning commission		X			C	11-35			
Regional railroad authority		X			-	49-17.2	X	X	Combo - Nonspecified
Rural ambulance service district	X				S	11-28.3	X		
Rural fire protection district	X				S	18-10	X		
Southwest Water Authority	X			X	S	61-24.5	X	X	
Township supervisors	X		58-18-07		C	58-06	X		
Water district		X	61-35-48	X	S	61-35		X	X

#1pg3

Political Subdivision	Elected	Appointed	Special Assessment District	Utility Fee Schedule	Audit Requirements ¹	Century Code Reference	Levy Authority	Eminent Domain Authority	Bonding Authority
Weather modification authority		X			C	61-04.1	X		
Western Area Water Supply Authority		X			S	61-40		X	

¹"S" represents the audit requirement is in statute. "N" represents no audit is necessary. "C" represents the audit is required by city or county.

February 12, 2015

SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES
SB 2300

CHAIRMAN DEVER AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

For the record my name is Blake Crosby. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota League of Cities representing the 357 cities across the State.

SB 2300 replaces the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) which, I have been told, was created in large part with help from the League. My first concentrated exposure to ACIR was during the 2014 interim and it appeared to me that the committee dealt with issues that were also in other interim committees. I don't recall any issues unique to the ACIR hearings.

At the same time, I was asked by the Governor to serve on his Property Tax Reform Task Force. I found the make-up of that group to be efficient and functional because we were not only focused on a singular issue but we all had some modicum of background on the issue.

After 25 years it is time for a change and I see this task force concept as a reasonable replacement. If I have any concerns it would be that ACIR allowed the cities the ability to bring an issue to the legislative body in a proactive manner and this task force does not directly allow that. However, I think we could usually find a legislator to make a request of legislative management.

I would ask for a Do-Pass on SB 2300.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. I will try to answer any questions.

To Oppose SB 2300

2/12 SB 2300 # 3

February 12, 2015

Chairman Dever and Members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

I am Larry Syverson a farmer from rural Mayville where I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County, I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Roseville Township of Traill County and I am also the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents the 6,000 Township Officers that serve over 1,100 dues paying member townships.

SB 2300 would change the ACIR into a task-force. The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations has been a valuable arena in which the political subdivisions could work out their differences ever since it was set up during Governor Sinner's administration. It gives us a chance to bring our issues to a forum and discuss them with other elected officials or their associations, four legislators are on the committee, sometimes acting as referees but most often as advisors.

As it stands now Commission members are asked if they have any items they would like studied, if the chair agrees the Commission looks into the issues and with peer review decides which might call for legislation and begins developing a bill to submit for Legislative Management consideration; not all solutions require legislative action.

Should SB 2300 pass, it seems that we would have to get a bill for a study introduced, spend a session lobbying to get it passed, and then hope that Legislative Management selects it for a study. If it is picked for a study I assume only the directly involved entities would be on the task force, but as our existences are joined at the NDCC, interactions can be unforeseen. Peer review is a service Commission members share on the ACIR.

NDTOA is and has always been committed to the ACIR since it was created, and because we value peer review we ask that you give SB 2300 a "do not pass" recommendation.

Thank you Chairman Dever and Committee Members.

I will try to answer any questions you might have.

2/20 #1

15.0801.02001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Unruh

February 19, 2015

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2300

Page 1, line 10, remove "from time to time"

Page 2, line 1, after "and" insert "may"

Page 2, line 2, after "subdivisions" insert ", the governor or the governor's designee."

Page 2, line 4, after "assembly" insert ". Task force appointees as representatives of political subdivisions may be selected from nominees of the North Dakota league of cities, association of counties, township officers association, recreation and park association, and school boards association"

Renumber accordingly

#1 2300
3-19-15

15.0801.03001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Unruh

March 19, 2015

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2300

Page 4, line 12, after "appointed" insert ". A majority of the members of each task force and a majority of the legislative assembly members of each task force must vote in favor of any proposed legislation before the proposed legislation may be recommended to the legislative management"

Renumber accordingly

Testimony to the
House Government & Veterans Affairs
March 19th, 2015
By the North Dakota Association of Counties

2
2300
3-19-15

SB 2300 Transforming ACIR Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I'm Donnell Preskey with the North Dakota Association of Counties. We support the concept of transforming the advisory commission on intergovernmental relations into legislative management appointed task forces on intergovernmental issues. We asked for the creation of the ACIR. It has been a forum for local government to meet and discuss issues.

However, we do know there have been some frustrations with the broad structure of the group. In some cases, there may have been some individuals who were not involved in certain issues; therefore losing interest in participating.

NDACo believes maintaining a forum is very important and this targeted task force approach is a wonderful way to continue the work on issues with local government folks and legislators all being involved. This approach brings in the proper stake holders on important issues to contribute to the problem solving this task force may be asked to undertake. The Governor's Property Tax Reform task force is a good example of how well this concept works. This new structure is well worth a trial run in the next interim.

We urge you to support SB 2300.

March 19, 2015

HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SB 2300

#3
2300
3-19-15

CHAIRMAN KASPER AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

For the record my name is Blake Crosby. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota League of Cities representing the 357 cities across the State.

SB 2300 replaces the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) which, I have been told, was created in large part with direction from the League. My first concentrated exposure to ACIR was during the 2014 interim and it appeared to me that the committee generally dealt with issues that were also in other interim committees. Very few issues were unique to the ACIR hearings.

At the same time, I was asked by the Governor to serve on his Property Tax Reform Task Force. I found the design of that group to be efficient and functional because we were not only focused on a singular issue but we all had some modicum of background on the issue.

After 25 years it is time for a change and I see this task force concept as a reasonable replacement. If I have any concerns it would be that ACIR allowed the cities the ability to bring an issue to the legislative body in a proactive manner and this task force does not directly allow that. However, I think we could usually find a legislator to make a request of legislative management.

On behalf of the North Dakota League of Cities, I would ask for a Do-Pass on engrossed SB 2300.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. I will try to answer any questions.

#4
2300
3-19-15

NDTOA opposes SB 2300

March 19, 2015

Good afternoon Chairman Kasper and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

I am Larry Syverson a farmer from rural Mayville where I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County, I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Roseville Township of Traill County and I am also the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents the 6,000 Township Officers that serve over 1,100 dues paying member townships.

SB 2300 would change the ACIR into a task-force. The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations has been a valuable arena in which the political subdivisions could work out their differences ever since it was set up during Governor Sinner's administration. It gives us a chance to bring our issues to a forum and discuss them with other elected officials or their associations; four legislators are on the committee, sometimes acting as referees but most often as advisors.

As it stands now Commission members are asked if they have any items they would like studied, if the chair agrees the Commission looks into the issues and with peer review decides which might call for legislation and begins developing a bill to submit for Legislative Management consideration; not all solutions require legislative action.

Should SB 2300 pass, it seems that we would have to get a bill for a study introduced, spend a session lobbying to get it passed, and then hope that Legislative Management selects it for a study. If it is picked for a study I assume only the directly involved entities would be on the task force, but as our existences are joined at the NDCC, interactions can be unforeseen. Peer review of potential interactions is a service Commission members share on the ACIR.

On March 12th Governor Dalrymple signed SB 2024, a bill to allow a county and township to work out an agreement that gives zoning authority back to the township. SB 2024 had just passed the House 85 – 0 on a 13-0-1 do pass recommendation from the House Political Subdivisions Committee. The Senate Political Subdivisions Committee had given it a 6 – 0 – 0 do pass

P. 2

recommendation and the Senate passed SB 2024 with a 46 – 0 vote. SB 2024, a product of the ACIR has been filed with the Secretary of State without even one negative vote at any level.

Legislators that were here in the 2009 session might recall that an accord was then finally reached between the townships and the League of Cities after a period of animosity, stemming from zoning issues, that had spanned several sessions. Much of the ground work for that accord was done by the ACIR after the 2007 session.

I know there were studies assigned to the ACIR that were not a good fit for that group. Like the study of medical care expenses in jails, most of the committee members would just as soon they would never have occasion to gain any knowledge of that issue. But there have been some definite successes in the history of the ACIR, not every issue discussed required legislation to resolve.

NDTOA is now and has always been committed to the ACIR since it was created, and because we value peer review we ask that you give SB 2300 a “do not pass” recommendation.

Thank you Chairman Kasper and Committee Members.

I will try to answer any questions you might have.