

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2152

Introduced by

Senators Watne, Nalewaja, W. Stenehjem

Representatives Huether, Kelsch, Mahoney

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 11-08-05, 11-08-07, 11-08-08, 11-08-09,  
2 11-08-10, 11-08-13, 11-08-15, 11-09-18, 11-09-19, subsection 3 of section 11-09.1-05, section  
3 11-10-02, subsection 3 of section 11-10.2-01, and section 11-15-01.1 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to the election of sheriffs and state's attorney.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-08-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **11-08-05. Vote required - Effective date - Procedure for discontinuance.** If a  
9 majority of the votes cast on the question of the adoption of the county consolidated form of  
10 government are in favor of that form, it becomes effective on the first day of January next  
11 succeeding the election. All elected officers whose offices become appointive under this  
12 chapter shall continue in office until their successors are appointed pursuant to the provisions  
13 of this chapter. The question of the discontinuance of the county consolidated office form of  
14 government may be submitted to the electors at the next primary election through the same  
15 procedures set forth in this chapter for adopting that form of government. On the first day of  
16 January following a vote to discontinue, the county reverts to the form of government of the  
17 county immediately preceding adoption of the consolidated office form of government, with all  
18 offices made appointive under this chapter subject to election at the last preceding general  
19 election, or to another optional form of county government adopted by the electors as provided  
20 by law.

21 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-08-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **11-08-07. Appointive officers - County commissioners, sheriff, and state's**  
24 **attorney elected - Terms of office - How vacancy filled.** The board of county commissioners

1 shall appoint each county officer mentioned in section 11-08-06, except the members of the  
2 board of county commissioners, who must be elected in the manner provided in section  
3 11-11-02, and the sheriff and the state's attorney, who must be elected as provided in section  
4 11-10-02. Each county officer shall hold office for a term of four years, except as otherwise  
5 provided in this chapter, and until the officer's successor is duly appointed and qualified. The  
6 board of county commissioners shall fill any vacancy resulting from any cause.

7 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-08-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **11-08-08. When appointment of officers made - Qualification.** The county officers  
10 to be appointed must be appointed by the board of county commissioners at the following times  
11 in the year in which the county consolidated office form of government goes into effect:

- 12 1. On or before the fifteenth day of January, the ~~sheriff, state's attorney, and~~ coroner  
13 must be appointed; and ~~such officers shall~~ must qualify within ten days thereafter.
- 14 2. Not less than ten days prior to April first, the county auditor must be appointed, and  
15 the appointee qualify within ten days thereafter.
- 16 3. Not less than ten days prior to May first, the county treasurer must be appointed,  
17 and the appointee shall qualify within ten days thereafter.

18 Thereafter, the appointments must be made within ten days prior to the expiration of the terms  
19 of office of the officers. The failure of the board of county commissioners to make any  
20 appointment within the time prescribed does not impair its power to make the appointment  
21 subsequently for the remainder of the term of office of the officer so appointed.

22 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-08-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **11-08-09. Compensation of officers.** Each member of the board of county  
25 commissioners and each other county officer appointed by such board or elected shall receive  
26 as compensation for services the salary prescribed by law for such officer, except that the  
27 county auditor shall receive a salary not exceeding three thousand dollars per annum and the  
28 county treasurer shall receive a salary not exceeding the amount provided by law for the office  
29 of county treasurer, to be fixed by the board of county commissioners.

30 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-08-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **11-08-10. ~~Board may appoint officers~~ Sheriff or state's attorney of adjoining**  
2 **county may run for election - Term of office - Compensation.** The ~~board of county~~  
3 ~~commissioners may appoint the sheriff or the state's attorney, or both, of an adjoining county to~~  
4 ~~act as the sheriff or state's attorney of its county~~ may run for election in a county that has  
5 adopted the county consolidated office form of government. Any such officer of an adjoining  
6 county so ~~appointed~~ elected shall serve for a term of ~~two~~ four years and until that officer's  
7 successor is ~~appointed~~ elected and qualified. An officer ~~appointed~~ elected under this section is  
8 eligible to serve in such dual capacity and shall receive, in addition to the salary as an officer of  
9 the county of residence, a sum not exceeding one-half of such salary, to be fixed by the board  
10 of county commissioners. The additional salary shall be paid by the county in the same  
11 manner as other county officers are paid.

12           **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-08-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14           **11-08-13. Powers and duties of other officers.** The sheriff, state's attorney, and  
15 coroner elected or appointed under this chapter shall perform the duties and exercise the  
16 powers conferred by law upon them.

17           **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-08-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19           **11-08-15. Removal of officers.** Any county officer appointed by the board of county  
20 commissioners or elected under the provisions of this chapter may be suspended or removed  
21 by the governor or by judicial proceedings in the manner provided by law.

22           **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-09-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24           **11-09-18. State's attorney to be elected - ~~Appointment~~ - Powers - Duties.** The  
25 ~~county manager~~ state's attorney of a county adopting any form of county managership, ~~with the~~  
26 ~~approval of the board of county commissioners, may appoint a~~ must be elected. The state's  
27 attorney ~~to~~ shall serve as legal adviser to the board of county commissioners and to the county  
28 manager, ~~to~~ act as counsel for the county in any suit instituted by or against it, and ~~to~~ perform  
29 such other duties as may be prescribed by the board of county commissioners or which are  
30 imposed on state's attorneys by general statute. ~~In a county adopting a short form of county~~  
31 ~~managership, the county manager, with the approval of the board of county commissioners,~~

1 ~~from time to time or on an annual basis, may appoint the~~ The state's attorney of an adjoining  
2 ~~county to perform such duties as are required of a state's attorney~~ may run for election in a  
3 ~~county which has adopted a short form of county managership.~~ The compensation of the  
4 ~~state's attorney of an adjoining county shall be that agreed upon by the person so appointed~~  
5 ~~elected,~~ the county manager, and the boards of county commissioners of the two counties  
6 ~~affected.~~

7 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-09-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **11-09-19. Sheriff - Election ~~Appointment~~ - Duties - Powers.** The sheriff of a  
10 county adopting a any form of county manager form of government shall managership must be  
11 elected in the manner prescribed by general statutes and shall perform the duties and be  
12 subject to the restrictions contained in the general statutes. ~~In a county adopting a short form~~  
13 ~~of county managership, the county manager shall, with the approval of the board of county~~  
14 ~~commissioners, appoint one or more police officers who shall perform all police duties imposed~~  
15 ~~on the sheriff by general statutes. All other duties imposed on the sheriff shall be performed by~~  
16 ~~or under the direction of the county manager. The county manager, from time to time or on an~~  
17 ~~annual basis, may contract with an adjoining county and its sheriff to obtain the services of~~  
18 ~~such sheriff, and the~~ of an adjoining county may run for election in a county which has adopted  
19 a short form of county managership. The compensation of such officer shall be such as shall  
20 ~~be the sheriff of an adjoining county is that~~ agreed upon by the sheriff, the county manager, and  
21 the boards of county commissioners of the counties affected.

22 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 11-09.1-05 of the North Dakota  
23 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

24 3. Provide for county elected and appointed officers and employees, their selection,  
25 powers, duties, qualifications, and compensation, and the terms of county  
26 appointed officers and employees. However, after adoption of a home rule charter  
27 a county elected office may not be eliminated or combined with another office  
28 except upon approval of a majority of the electors of the county voting upon the  
29 question at a primary or general election or pursuant to the county officer  
30 combination, separation, or redesignation procedures of chapter 11-10.2. A home  
31 rule charter may not diminish the term of office for which a current county officer

1           was elected, redesignate that elected office during that term as appointed, or  
2           reduce the salary of the office for that term. This subsection does not authorize a  
3           county to redesignate the elected offices of sheriff and state's attorney as  
4           appointive offices.

5           **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-10-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7           **11-10-02. Number and election of county officers.** Each organized county, unless it  
8 has adopted one of the optional forms of county government provided by the code or has  
9 combined or separated the functions of county offices or redesignated offices as elective or  
10 appointive pursuant to chapter 11-10.2 or 11-10.3, must have the following officers:

- 11           1. One county auditor.
- 12           2. One register of deeds in counties having a population of more than six thousand.
- 13           3. One clerk of the district court.
- 14           4. ~~One state's attorney.~~
- 15           5. ~~One sheriff.~~
- 16           6. One county treasurer.
- 17           7. ~~5.~~ One coroner.
- 18           8. ~~Repealed by S.L. 1989, ch. 137, § 10, effective January 1, 1993.~~
- 19           9. ~~6.~~ A board of county commissioners consisting of three or five members as provided  
20           in this title.

21           In addition, each county must have an elected state's attorney and an elected sheriff.

22           In counties having a population of six thousand or less, the clerk of the district court  
23 must be the register of deeds, unless the board of county commissioners adopts a resolution  
24 separating the offices no less than thirty days before petitions for nomination to county offices  
25 may first be filed for the primary election. For a county which has properly initiated the option  
26 and it is funded by the legislative assembly pursuant to section 11-17-11, the board of county  
27 commissioners may provide for the register of deeds' services in any appropriate manner.  
28 Counties having a population of six thousand or less and exercising the option provided in  
29 section 11-17-11 may contract with the state court administrator for the provision of shared  
30 funding for register of deeds' services. The required officers must be chosen by the qualified  
31 electors of the respective counties at the general election in each even-numbered year, except

1 the register of deeds, county auditor, treasurer, sheriff, state's attorney, and clerk of the district  
2 court, who must be chosen in 1966 and every four years thereafter, the members of the board  
3 of county commissioners, who must be chosen in the manner prescribed in section 11-11-02,  
4 and the county coroner, who must be chosen in the manner prescribed in section 11-19.1-03.  
5 The clerk of district court elected pursuant to this section is not subject to election in any future  
6 general election that occurs after the start of the state biennium after the county has properly  
7 initiated the option and the legislative assembly has provided appropriations pursuant to section  
8 11-17-11.

9 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 11-10.2-01 of the North Dakota  
10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 3. This option is available in addition to, or in lieu of, other county structural options  
12 authorized under this title, unless a specific mandate for combining or separating  
13 particular county offices is otherwise provided by law. The ~~office~~ offices of county  
14 ~~judge is sheriff and state's attorney are~~ excluded from the application of this  
15 chapter.

16 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-15-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **11-15-01.1. Sheriff must be qualified elector and shall receive required training -**  
19 **Exception.** Except as otherwise specifically provided by state law, the sheriff must be a  
20 qualified elector in the county in which the sheriff is elected ~~or appointed~~. Within one year after  
21 taking office, the sheriff shall attend the sheriffs' school on civil process for one week, and  
22 unless already licensed under sections 12-63-01 through 12-63-14, shall begin the training  
23 necessary to become so licensed. Within two years after taking office, the sheriff shall  
24 complete the procedures required to be licensed under sections 12-63-01 through 12-63-14.