

**Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

SENATE BILL NO. 2261
(Senators Myrdal, Clemens, Vedaa)
(Representatives Kasper, B. Koppelman, K. Koppelman)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 16.1-03-01, 16.1-03-02, 16.1-03-03, and 16.1-03-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the organization of political parties and caucuses within legislative districts; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-03-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-03-01. Party caucus to elect precinct committeemen - Time and manner of holding - Caucus call - Notice.

1. Each legislative district party shall organize in conformance with the state legislative district boundaries as established by the legislative assembly and as set forth under chapter 54-03.
2. On or before May fifteenth following the last preceding general election, a party caucus must be held by every election ~~precinct~~ legislative district party at a site within or reasonably close to the precinct in the manner provided in sections 16.1-03-01 through 16.1-03-03. The legislative district party may organize the caucus by precinct or on an at-large basis for the entire district.
3. The legislative district chairman of each party shall set the date and time for the ~~precinct~~ party caucus. If there is not a duly elected district chairman in a legislative district, the state party executive committee may issue the call for the ~~precinct~~ caucus. The call must contain the following:
 - a. Name of party.
 - b. Legislative district ~~and precinct number or name.~~
 - c. Date of caucus.
 - d. Place of caucus.
 - e. Hours of caucus.
 - f. A statement of the business to be conducted, ~~including the election of precinct committeemen and such other individuals as may be provided by state law and district party bylaws.~~
 - g. The name of the district chairman or, if there is not a duly elected district chairman, the member of the state party executive committee issuing the call.
4. The district chairman or, if there is not a duly elected district chairman, the state party executive committee shall provide ten days' published notice in the official newspaper in circulation ~~within each precinct in the district.~~ The notices must contain that information set forth in subsection 3. ~~The information required by this section for all precincts in the district may be included in one notice for publishing purposes.~~

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-03-02. Who may participate in and vote at caucus.

1. Only those individuals who are qualified electors under section 16.1-01-04 may vote or be elected as ~~committeemen or officers~~ at the ~~precinct~~party caucus.
2. In case the right of an individual to participate at the caucus is challenged, the question of the individual's right to participate must be decided by a vote of the whole caucus. An individual so challenged may not vote on the question of the individual's right to participate in the caucus, and a two-thirds vote of the whole caucus is required to exclude an individual from participation.
3. An individual may not vote or participate at more than one ~~precinct~~ caucus in any one year.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-03-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-03-03. Political parties entitled to may elect committeemen.

1. ~~A political organization is entitled to elect a precinct committeeman at its precinct caucus if:~~
 - a. ~~The organization nominated and had printed on the ballot at the last preceding general election the names of a set of presidential electors pledged to the election of the party's candidates for president and vice president or a candidate for governor, attorney general, or secretary of state; and~~
 - b. ~~The candidates provided for in subdivision a received at least five percent of the total vote cast for presidential electors or for governor, attorney general, or secretary of state within this state at that election.~~
2. ~~Each~~If a political party chooses to organize by precinct, the party in each voting precinct of this state, ~~otherwise qualifying under subsection 1,~~ is entitled to elect one precinct committeeman for each two hundred fifty votes, or majority of a fraction thereof, cast for the party's presidential electors, governor, attorney general, or secretary of state in the precinct in the last general election. ~~Each precinct is entitled to at least one precinct committeeman for each party which qualifies under subsection 1.~~ Each precinct committeeman must be an elector of the precinct in which the committeeman resides and must be elected for a two-year term.
3. ~~If a political organization desires to organize under this chapter but has not qualified as provided in subsection 1, the organization may elect one precinct committeeman for each precinct in the district.~~

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-03-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-03-07. Meeting of district committee - Organization.

1. ~~If a legislative district chooses to organize by precinct in every odd-numbered year, the district committee of each party shall meet within fifteen days after the precinct caucus provided for in section 16.1-03-01. The day, hour, and site must be set by the existing district committee chairman. Any incumbent members of the legislative assembly from the party, the precinct committeemen of a party, selected as provided by this chapter, and any other individual provided for by the district committee's bylaws constitute the district committee of the party. The district committee of a party must be organized to coincide with the geographical boundary lines of state legislative districts. Each member of any committee provided for in this chapter must be a qualified elector.~~
2. ~~The precinct committeemen and the party's incumbent members of the legislative assembly from the district shall select the officers of the district committee. The officers selected, as provided by the district party bylaws, need not be precinct committeemen; however, all the~~

~~officers must be voting members of the district committee.~~ The district committee shall select the officers of the district committee and forward to the state committee the name and contact information of the district committee chairman. The district committee may appoint an executive committee consistent with the bylaws of the district committee. That party's nominees for and members of the legislative assembly shall serve as members of the executive committee.

3. If the office of chairman becomes vacant, the vacancy may be filled as provided by the district party bylaws.
4. The bylaws of the state committee or state party may not include any requirement providing directives or procedures for the method of the organization of district committees nor may the state committee or state party take any action or impose any requirement regarding district party organization which is not consistent unless a district lacks a district committee that is able to carry out the responsibilities under this chapter. A state party may not take any action that is inconsistent with this chapter.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2261 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 83 Nays 9 Absent 2

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2017.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2017.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2017,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State