

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 4.1-02-04,
2 subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 4.1-04-04, subdivision b of subsection 1 of section
3 4.1-07-04, subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 4.1-09-05, subdivision b of subsection 1 of
4 section 4.1-09-06, section 4.1-11-04, subsection 2 of section 4.1-13-05, sections 11-11-11,
5 11-11-35, 11-11-37, and 16.1-15-32 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to notice and
6 publication requirements.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 4.1-02-04 of the North
9 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 b. The ~~county extension agent~~council shall publish notice of the meeting in the
11 official newspaper of the county for two consecutive weeks. The last notice must
12 be published no fewer than five nor more than ten days before the meeting.

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 4.1-04-04 of the North
14 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15 b. The ~~county extension agent~~council shall publish notice of the meeting in the
16 official newspaper of the county for two consecutive weeks. The last notice must
17 be published no fewer than five nor more than ten days before the meeting.

18 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 4.1-07-04 of the North
19 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20 b. The ~~county extension agent~~council shall publish notice of the meeting in the
21 official newspaper of the county for two consecutive weeks. The last notice must
22 be published no fewer than five nor more than ten days before the meeting.

23 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 4.1-09-05 of the North
24 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1 b. The ~~county extension agent~~council shall publish notice of the meeting in the
2 official newspaper of the county for two consecutive weeks. The last notice must
3 be published no fewer than five nor more than ten days before the meeting.

4 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 4.1-09-06 of the North
5 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 6 b. The ~~county extension agent~~council shall publish notice of the meeting in the
7 official newspaper of the county for two consecutive weeks. The last notice must
8 be published no fewer than five nor more than ten days before the meeting.

9 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-11-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **4.1-11-04. Election of county representative.**

- 12 1. Before January first, the council shall identify each district represented by a council
13 member whose term is about to expire and notify the extension agent for each county
14 in that member's district that an election to select a county representative must occur
15 before March first.
- 16 2. Each year during the month of January, ~~each county extension agent required to~~
17 ~~conduct an election in accordance with this section~~the council shall publish notice of
18 the election in the official newspaper of the county for one week. The notice must
19 contain a description of the election process, a request for the nomination of potential
20 candidates for the position, and a deadline for the receipt of all nominations.
- 21 3. In order for a nomination to be valid, it must be submitted to the county extension
22 agent in writing and signed by a nominating producer who resides in the county. The
23 county extension agent shall determine if a nomination is valid. A decision by the
24 county extension agent under this subsection is final.
- 25 4. The county extension agent shall:
- 26 a. Compile all valid nominations;
- 27 b. Contact each nominee to determine if the nominee consents to being on the
28 ballot; and
- 29 c. Forward the name of each nominee to the council.
- 30 5. The council shall prepare the election ballots and mail to each producer of record in
31 the county:

- 1 a. A ballot;
- 2 b. A stamped self-addressed return envelope;
- 3 c. Instructions for completing and returning the ballot; and
- 4 d. A statement indicating the last date by which the ballots must be postmarked or
- 5 filed with the county extension agent.
- 6 6. The ~~county extension agent~~council shall publish notice of the pending election in the
- 7 official newspaper of the county for one week. The notice must announce the election,
- 8 provide information regarding the manner in which a producer may obtain a ballot if
- 9 one was not received by mail, and indicate the deadline by which all ballots must be
- 10 returned.
- 11 7. Any producer who resides in the county may vote in the election.
- 12 8. Immediately after the passing of the deadline by which the ballots must be returned,
- 13 the county extension agent shall:
- 14 a. Tabulate the ballots;
- 15 b. Notify the director of the North Dakota state university extension service and the
- 16 council that the election has taken place and provide to the director and the
- 17 council the name and address of the newly elected county representative; and
- 18 c. Notify the newly elected county representative.
- 19 9. Subsections 1 through 8 do not apply if the county extension agent, in consultation
- 20 with the executive director of the county farm service agency office, determines and
- 21 notifies the council that no soybean producers willing to serve as county
- 22 representatives reside within the county.

23 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 4.1-13-05 of the North Dakota Century
24 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 25 2. The ~~county extension agent~~commission shall publish notice of the meeting in the
- 26 official newspaper of the county for two consecutive weeks. The last notice must be
- 27 published no fewer than five nor more than ten days before the meeting.

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

30 **11-11-11. General duties of board of county commissioners.**

31 The board of county commissioners:

- 1 1. Shall superintend the fiscal affairs of the county.
- 2 2. Shall supervise the conduct of the respective county officers.
- 3 3. May cause to be audited and verified the accounts of all officers having the custody,
4 management, collection, or disbursement of any moneys belonging to the county or
5 received in their official capacity.
- 6 4. Before ~~March~~November fifteenth of each year, shall have the county auditor prepare
7 general purpose financial statements in accordance with generally accepted
8 accounting principles. Public notice that financial statements have been prepared and
9 are available for inspection must be published in the official newspaper.

10 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-11-35 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **11-11-35. Board to keep records of proceedings.**

13 The board of county commissioners shall keep a book in which all orders and decisions
14 made by it ~~shall be~~ recorded. ~~Such~~The book ~~shall~~must be known as "a record of the
15 proceedings of the board of county commissioners". All orders and vouchers for the allowance
16 and payment of moneys from the county treasury ~~shall~~must state on what account and to whom
17 the allowance is made. ~~The same shall~~order or voucher must be dated and numbered with the
18 number of the warrant issued in payment thereof. Approval of orders and vouchers ~~shall~~must be
19 recorded in the record of the proceedings ~~and this shall be, which is~~ sufficient to indicate
20 approval without requiring a majority of the board to sign or initial the orders and vouchers.
21 Orders and vouchers for payment of moneys from the county treasury are not required to be
22 published in the minutes or report of the official proceedings.

23 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-11-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **11-11-37. Proceedings of board of county commissioners to be published in official-**
26 **newspaper - When published.**

27 The board of county commissioners shall supply to the official newspaper of the county or
28 publish to the official website of the county a full and complete report of its official proceedings
29 at each regular and special meeting no later than seven days after the meeting at which the
30 report is read and approved. The publisher of the official newspaper shall publish the report in

1 the issue of the paper next succeeding the time of its reception and shall file with the county
2 auditor an affidavit of publication executed in the proper form.

3 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-15-32 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **16.1-15-32. County auditor to publish returns of election.**

6 The county auditor shall ~~cause to be published~~publish in tabular form in the official county
7 newspaper or the official website of the county the vote by precincts for each officer and each
8 proposition voted for at any primary, special, or general election. ~~The~~if published in the official
9 county newspaper, the publication must be paid for at a rate not to exceed the rate paid for
10 publishing the proceedings of the board of county commissioners.