

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 16.1-01-09 and section
2 16.1-06-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the petition title of an initiated or
3 referred measure.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 16.1-01-09 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 7 1. a. A request of the secretary of state for approval of a petition to initiate or refer a
8 measure may be presented over the signatures of the sponsoring committee on
9 individual signature forms that have been notarized. The secretary of state shall
10 prepare a signature form that includes provisions for identification of the
11 measure; the printed name, signature, and address of the committee member;
12 and notarization of the signature. The filed signature forms must be originals.
- 13 b. Upon receipt of a petition to initiate or refer a measure, the secretary of state
14 shall draft a short and concise statement of no more than one hundred words that
15 fairly represents the measure. The statement must be submitted to the attorney
16 general for approval or disapproval. An approved statement must be affixed to
17 the petition before it is circulated for signatures, must be called the "petition title",
18 and must be placed immediately before the full text of the measure.
- 19 c. The secretary of state and the attorney general shall complete their review of a
20 petition in not less than five, nor more than seven, business days, excluding
21 Saturdays.

22 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-06-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **16.1-06-09. Constitutional amendments and initiated and referred measures - Manner**
2 **of stating question - Explanation of effect of vote - Order of listing.**

3 ~~Constitutional amendments or measures, initiated measures, and referred measures~~The
4 petition title for each constitutional amendment or measure, initiated measure, or referred
5 measure, duly certified to the county auditor by the secretary of state, or any other question or
6 measure to be voted on, except the election of public officers at any primary, general, or special
7 election including officers subject to a recall petition, must, ~~unless otherwise determined by the~~
8 ~~secretary of state, be stated in full in a legible manner~~ be placed on the ballot. If the secretary of
9 ~~state concludes the amendment or measure is too long to make it practicable to print in full, the~~
10 ~~secretary of state in consultation with the attorney general shall cause to be printed a short,~~
11 ~~concise summary, which must fairly represent the substance of the constitutional amendment or~~
12 ~~initiated or referred measure. After the foregoing statement~~petition title, the secretary of state
13 shall cause to be printed another short, concise statement of the effect of an affirmative or
14 negative vote on the constitutional amendment or initiated or referred measure. This
15 explanatory statement must be drafted by the secretary of state in consultation with the attorney
16 general. The words "Yes" and "No" must be printed on the ballot at the close of the statement
17 regarding the effect of an affirmative or negative vote, in separate lines with an oval before each
18 statement in which the voter is to indicate how the voter desires to vote on the question by
19 darkening the oval. No other information regarding a constitutional amendment or initiated or
20 referred measure may be placed on the ballot. If two or more amendments or questions are to
21 be voted on, they must be printed on the same ballot.

22 The measures to be submitted to the electors must be grouped and classified as
23 constitutional measures, initiated statutes, or referred statutes and must be placed within such
24 groups or classifications by the secretary of state in the order received, for the purpose of
25 placing them on the ballot. Measures submitted by the legislative assembly must be placed first
26 on the ballot within their classification in the order approved by the legislative assembly.
27 Constitutional measures shall be placed first on the ballot, initiated statutes second, and
28 referred statutes third. After all the measures have been placed within the appropriate group or
29 classification, all measures must be numbered consecutively, without regard to the various
30 groups or classifications.