

**1999 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

**SB 2232**


1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2232

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 21, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		5366 to end
1		x	0 to 2600
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

Introduction to SB2232

Representative Cleary: SB2232 INTRODUCTION

SENATOR KELSH: Superintendent would have the authority to have an excused absent section 3 under D superintendent could also deny the student to have an excused absence,

REP CLEARY: Most things you need an excused absence

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Part B3 how about an extremely smart student whom is not currently enrolled in school.

REP CLEARY: let the chairperson or the county auditor know that she is interested

SENATOR LEE: ages of children under the age of sixteen being a poll clerk

REP CLEARY: We allow children to drive so I think that this would be a good lesson for them to learn. Win, Win situation for all

SENATOR NELSON: Home schooled children being allowed to be a poll person

REP CLEARY That should not be a problem

# End of side A

KEVIN GLATT: SEE TESTIMONY

SENATOR FLAKOLL: dealing with laws in children whom are under the age of sixteen  
and the amount of time that they work

KEVIN GLATT: I don't believe so and those statutes are federal statutes and shifts of works for  
clerks and students

SENATOR LEE: age of sixteen as a cutoff and the amount of work that they can do dealing  
with child labor laws

SENATOR WATNE: all workers in shifts and which workers go through the training process

KEVIN GLATT: YES all workers would be paid for training

SENATOR WATNE: What is the pay for these people

KEVIN GLATT: Clerks at the permission of the County Commissioners office don't have to go  
to training but they can go to training and can get paid

SENATOR WATNE: Bill was amended that all people are required to send all people to  
training

SENATOR LYSON: Articles should be using job service and the media

KEVIN GLATT: went to media and senior centers but not to job service

SENATOR KELSH: Parties interest responsibility to protect their interests at the polls and that that is there responsibility to have the right people there.

SENATOR LEE: both parties having problems getting workers to work poll hours and work after the poll closed

CHARLOTTE MCCLAUGHLIN: SEE TESTIMONY

SENATOR NELSON: Five people on the election board with a maximum of two students

CHARLOTTE MCCLAUGHLIN: Problems with having a older worker

SENATOR NELSON: Spelling of names and hearing and eyesight

CHARLOTTE MCCLAUGHLIN: Takes leave for elective duties

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Who would be the person in higher education to excuse the student

CHARLOTTE MCCLAUGHLIN: I don't think that these student need an absence excuse

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Who would get a student excused from a test or some special event

SENATOR NELSON: Depends on the institution, Memorial Union staffing of students

SENATOR KELSH: Excuse from attendance and the penalty because of this and opportunity to make it up

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Take attendance in Physical Education

SENATOR NELSON: in college?

SENATOR LEE: 3 Absences and you could be flunked and material couldn't be learned if not present

CORY FONG: SEE TESTIMONY

SENATOR WATNE: Pay for workers and minimum wage + 25% if they attend training

CORY FONG: \$6.44 per hour

SENATOR WATNE: Workers of poll stations should be paid more

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Fargo does this already , and age limitations as of the election date

CORY FONG: As of the date of election or when they are hired for the job

SENATOR WATNE: in testimony you say that missing one day of school for an election, this is not just one day of school

GAYLAND BECTOR: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION And his opposition to the training of the students and parts of the bill that are good and bad. Line 21 opposition and “must be excused from school attendance” School administrator. Involvement of the school board. Line 4 Page 2 and the word penalized and if a student is 16 years old and the time of the elections and the words GOOD STANDING

SENATOR KELSH: Subsection C part 3 would not really be in effect for students in the polling area Define a good standing of students

GAYLAND BECKER: School districts choice on excusing the student

SENATOR LYSON: what is good standing

GAYLAND BECKER NO ANSWER

SENATOR LEE: Address the issues of the schools involved and the schools authority

GAYLORD BECKER: Would help the in elections if students helped. and the word penalized

MOTION: PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED ON SB2232

SENATOR NELSON: PROJECT VOTE SMART AND THE IMPACT ON ELECTIONS

SENATOR LYSON: Clean up some of the language and mold bill after the Athletic Association

SENATOR LEE: Public vs. Non public and allowing the school to have some control

SENATOR LYSON: Strike out number 3 put the word MAY in instead of MUST

Page 5

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Bill/Resolution Number Sb2232

Hearing Date January 21, 1999

SENATOR LEE: That would make things better

CORY FONG: DEMOCRACY is working and will work on amendments to bill, line 19 public and nonpublic and other amendments

SENATOR NELSON: Age problem and students enrolled full time vs.. half time people

CORY FONG: Legislatures spouse being enrolled as poll clerks

SENATOR FLAKOLL: NO MOVE TO STRIKE OUT LINES 19-20 AND GOOD

STANDING, monitor number of elections that a person could participate in

SENATOR Lyson: Students missing school

Kevin GLATT: Special elections and when students need to attend

SENATOR KELSH; Changing bill because student is in good standing leave subsection 3 in there.

SENATOR NELSON: people who are not students and have reached the age of sixteen

SENATOR WATNE: Age of sixteen should not poll or should be offered lunches and breaks

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Huderites and schooling

SENATOR LEE: ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATOR KELSH: quitting school and not being a student and being dumb

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Huderites and schooling and election polling and huderites getting out of school at age sixteen

MOTION: WISH OF THE COMMITTEE

SENATOR KELSH: MOVE THE AMENDMENTS

SENATOR LEE: LINE THREE AND OTHER CHANGES

MOTION: SECONDED BY SENATOR NELSON

Page 6  
Senate Political Subdivisions Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number Sb2232  
Hearing Date January 21, 1999

PAGE 1 LINE 19 “ DELETE PRIVATE AND MAKE IT OR NON PUBLIC

PAGE 1 LINE 21 “MUST BE OVER-STRUCK AND MAY WOULD BE PUT IN

PAGE 1 LINE 24 “GUARDIAN WE WOULD ADD SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR”

PAGE 2 LINE 4 AND 5 “ PERIOD AFTER WORD OPERATIVE AND DELETE BALANCE  
OF LINE 4 AND MANNER ON PAGE 5”

REMOVE PENALIZED IN BILL

MOTION: HOLD FOR AMENDMENTS

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Address all issues

MOTION: ROLL CALL ON AMENDMENTS 6 YEA, 0 NEA

MOTION: HOLD FOR FURTHER DEBATE

MOTION: DO PASS ON AMENDMENTS

**FEBRUARY 11, 1999**

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT DONE

MOTION: DO NOT PASS 3-2 VOTE 1 ABSENT

January 21, 1999

**TO:** Senator Judy Lee and Members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

**FR:** Kevin J. Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor

**RE: SB 2232 – Student Election Workers – Proposed Amendments**

Attached is a summary of the proposed amendments discussed during this morning's hearing of Senate Bill 2232 pertaining to student election workers.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2232**

Page 1, line 19, replace "private" with "non-public"

Page 1, line 21, replace "must" with "may"

Page 1, line 24, immediately after "guardian" insert "and school administrator"

Page 2, line 4, remove "nor may the student be penalized by the school in any"

Page 2, line 5, remove "manner"

Renumber accordingly

In addition, Senator Nelson, requested that Cory Fong and I work on language for an additional amendment to reflect that those young persons who have graduated from high school or completed their GED also be included in this Senate Bill 2232. Therefore, I also offer the following amendment for consideration by the committee:

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2232**

Page 1, line 20, after "institution." insert "c. A person who has attained the age of sixteen and has graduated from high school or obtained a general education degree from an accredited educational institution."

Page 1, line 21, replace "c" with "d"

Renumber accordingly.



Date: 1-21-98  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2232  
Amendments

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Amendments

Motion Made By Kelsh Seconded By Nelson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Lee (Chairman)	/				
Senator Lyson (Vice-Chaiman)	/				
Senator Flakoll	/				
Senator Watne	/				
Senator Kelsh	/				
Senator Nelson	/				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment Senator Kelsh

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

Hold

Date: 2-5-99  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2232

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do not pass

Motion Made By Watne Seconded By Lyson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Lee (Chairman)	/				
Senator Lyson (Vice-Chaiman)	/				
Senator Flakoll		/			
Senator Watne	/				
Senator Kelsh		/			
Senator Nelson					

Total (Yes) 3 No 2

Absent Nelson

Floor Assignment Watne

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2232: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (3 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2232 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 6, replace "subdivision" with "subdivisions" and after "b" insert "and d"

Page 1, line 19, remove "public or private"

Page 1, line 21, replace "must" with "may"

Page 1, line 23, after "request" insert "to be absent from school"

Page 1, line 24, replace "to be absent from school" with "and by the school administrator"

Page 2, line 4, remove "nor may the student be penalized by the school in any"

Page 2, line 5, remove "manner"

Page 2, after line 6, insert:

"d. An individual who has attained the age of sixteen and has graduated from high school or obtained a general education degree from an accredited educational institution is eligible to be appointed as a poll clerk if the individual meets the qualifications of paragraphs 1 and 2 of subdivision b."

Renumber accordingly

**1999 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

**SB 2232**

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2232

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3-4-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		0.5--14.9
2	x		46.7-51.1
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Pam Hever</i>			

Minutes: BILL SUMMARY: Relating to the qualifications of members of the board of election.

Chairman Froseth called the hearing to order with all committee members present except Rep. Gunter.

Sen. Ed Kringstad, Dist. 49, Bismarck : .5 testified in support of this bill. I don't think we will be putting anyone at risk if we allow 16 year olds to be poll clerks for elections. During W.W. II there were decorated soldiers at 16 years of age that fought for our freedom. This was in W.W. I, also. The one 16 year old from W.W.II who comes to mind is Audie Murphy, who is the most decorated soldier ever. Young men under the age of 16 carried the flag into battle leading the charge. Some were 12 years old. Had it not been for some of those people, we would not have the right to vote now. That is where I'm coming from, in this regard, to lowering the age of poll workers.

Rep. N. Johnson : What does the poll clerk do?

Sen. Kringstad : Just write names or check off names as voters come in. They are not old enough to vote, but what a wonderful way to introduce the election process to the young.

Chairman Froseth : 3.0 Was there any thought given to schools giving credit to the students who work at elections?

Sen. Kringstad : I'm not sure. They are not counted absent at school.

Rep. Audrey Cleary, Dist. 49, Bismarck : 3.7 testified in support of this bill. I am coming at this a bit differently. I worked at polls and talk to people who work at polls. It is a long day, plus older people who have worked many years are getting too old. It's getting harder and harder to get people to work. I think it is great to get young people interested in government, by letting them take part in the election process. Also, they will be helping us.

Kevin Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor : 4.9 testified in support of bill. (See attached testimony) It's permissive legislation. It is acceptable to the DPI, so there shouldn't be a problem.

Rep. Koppelman : 7.1 Is this a particular problem in Burleigh County or have you been toying with this idea for awhile.

Kevin : It's a problem in every county in the state. It's a problem with both parties.

Sponsorship is local because it's the people I know. We tried this two years ago, and there is more of a need then ever for this bill. I don't know if we'll have tons of young people interested, or if every county will use it. It will provide the opportunity, though.

Rep. Koppelman : Can you explain the different poll workers.

Kevin : An election board is made up of five individuals. The inspector is appointed by the city or county commission, one republican judge and one democrat judge, and one republican clerk

and one democrat clerk. It's very important that the clerks write well and hear well, because they are the first people the voter talks with when they register. The poll books are very important.

Rep. Delmore : Can you tell me in other states where they do use these young people, how many students took the opportunity. Have you done any research in MN?

Kevin : In Hawaii, it has 18% of election workers are 16 and 17 year olds and the number is rising. In MN, it is relatively new so we don't have numbers for that state.

Rep. Delmore : Any complications with this?

Kevin : Anyone that I have talked to has said it's well accepted and no problems. Very positive.

Rep. Koppelman : Are the qualifications for a worker now the same as for a voter, and if, yes, then why?

Kevin : That's correct. Only difference with this bill is age. And only to be poll clerk.

Cory Fong, Sec. of State Office : testified in support of this bill. (See attached testimony)

Chairman Froseth : Any more testimony in support; any against? Hearing none, it's closed.

Later in the afternoon the bill was up for discussion. Tape 2, Side A.

Rep. B. Thoreson : I think this is a good piece of legislation.

ACTION: Vice Chair Maragos made a motion of DO PASS and Rep. Severson seconded the motion.

Rep. Niemeier : I wish we could have heard from the schools about this.

Rep. Eckre : I'm sure the schools will check student grade files before they will be allowed to take school off to work the elections.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 14 YES and 0 NO with 1 ABSENT. PASSED.

Rep. Eckre will carry the bill.

Please type or use black pen to complete

Date 3-4-99

Roll call vote # 1

### 1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2232

House POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS Committee

- Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_
  - Conference Committee
- } Identify or check where appropriate

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Vice Maragos Seconded By Rep. Severson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Froseth	/		Rep. Wikenheiser	/	
Vice Chair Maragos	/				
Rep. Delmore	/				
Rep. Disrud	/				
Rep. Eckre	/				
Rep. Ekstrom	/				
Rep. Glasheim	/				
Rep. Gunter	/				
Rep. Johnson, N.	/				
Rep. Koppelman	/				
Rep. Niemeier	/				
Rep. Rose	/				
Rep. Severson	/				
Rep. Thoreson, B.	/				

Total 14 0  
(Yes) (No)

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Eckre

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

DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHTER ON ANY FORMS



REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
March 4, 1999 4:03 p.m.

Module No: HR-39-4064  
Carrier: Eckre  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2232, as engrossed: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Froseth, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
Engrossed SB 2232 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**1999 TESTIMONY**  
**SB 2232**

Testimony to the  
**Senate Political Subdivisions**  
prepared January 21, 1999  
by Kevin J. Glatt ✓  
Burleigh County Auditor

### Concerning SB2232

Chairperson Lee and members of the committee, I appear before you to express my support of SB2232.

SB2232 is permissive legislation that will accomplish two things:

- 1) Help alleviate the problem that District Party Chairpersons and county auditors have finding election workers, and
- 2) Give our young people hands-on education and experience on how our democracy and political system work.

Finding election day poll workers is a predicament that plagues almost every jurisdiction and it grows worse every year. The job of poll worker, with its long hours and token pay, has never had enormous appeal. Those that it has appealed to in the past (homemakers, retirees, partisans) are less available. Today, the pool of poll workers is composed of largely older Americans. The loyalty and experience of this group has been a hallmark of our election process. However, as poll work is becoming more demanding, and as laws change and as technology advances, polling place operations are not as simple as they once were. This added complexity and added paperwork creates an environment that older Americans find less comfortable than do the young. Older Americans may find the extremely long days more demanding than they can endure. Fourteen to sixteen hour days are difficult for anyone. So even the core of our current poll workers, older Americans, is in jeopardy.

The hands on education and training that the student election worker could gain is immeasurable. What better way can we find to get young people involved and interested in our democracy and political system? Please consider the knowledge and experience students could receive from working hands-on within the political system with knowledgeable and experienced co-workers. It is my opinion that the 1 day of school missed in November will be a great learning experience for any student who wants to

work on election day. I understand that working with students will not be a cure-all, but may offer a great opportunity for election officials and students alike.

The states of Minnesota, Hawaii, Oregon, and Connecticut have had good success with this idea and are building the young into a key component of their election day work force. This bill draft is a compilation of statutes from Hawaii, Connecticut, and Indiana. This bill draft is permissive legislation allowing election officials to appoint no more than 2 students to serve as election clerks in each precinct.

Madam Chairman, members of the committee I urge your favorable support for SB2232.

ON THE HILL

Election workers harder to find

Sunday

October 25, 1998

PAGE: 02A

BYLINE - Don Davis

Finding election workers is bound to become more and more difficult. North Dakota has high employment, a declining rural population and the job pays little. As voting drops, so, too, does interest in working at the polls.

"You have a lot of old-timers who are getting burned out because they are doing it year after year," Republican state Chairman Gary Porter said. "Their complaint is they expect you to sit there from 8 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock at night."

"There are just a lot of people who can't do that, or choose not to do that," added state Democratic Executive Director Jerry Kelsh.

There appears to be no solution to what will become a serious problem. Kelsh suggested that perhaps the state will need to look at mail voting again.

The reason Kelsh and Porter are involved in the situation is the two parties' district chairmen have the legal obligation to name judges and clerks for each precinct. Most of the state's 701 precincts have one election inspector appointed by county or city officials, plus the two judges and two clerks appointed by the parties. Together, they make up the precinct election board.

State Elections Director Cory Fong said some counties have problems getting the district party chairmen to make appointments, and county auditors must recruit workers. For the June primary election, about 14 percent of the 2,800 North Dakota election workers district chairmen were to have selected had to be found by county auditors, Fong said.

A survey of a half-dozen area auditors showed they are in better shape than past elections, but nearly every auditor contacted had at least one district chairman who had not reported in, long after the deadline.

"In rural areas, so many of the people work now," Grant County Auditor Stacey Hertz said. "We don't have as many who are not working during the day."

Hertz and Logan County Auditor Blanche Schumacher said election workers have it a bit easier today since most counties have begun some form of automated vote counting.

When their counties hand-counted paper ballots, workers often had to be on duty at 8 a.m. election day and not leave until, perhaps, 4 a.m. the next day. Their job lasted until every last ballot was counted. Now, however, the workday ends much earlier because ballots are taken to the auditor's office to be counted by machine.

Another problem Hertz mentioned was that legislative district chairmen often don't live in Grant County, so party leaders are not familiar with people who may want to be election workers.

Burleigh County Auditor Kevin Glatt said he is surprised at how easy it was to get workers for the Nov. 3 general election. But before the June primary, he was short until a Tribune story about the situation drew

interest.

"We really scrambled in June," Glatt said.

Problems will return. Both parents work in most families today, and the minimum wage paid election workers is not enough to entice those who do stay home to find child care. That leaves election work up to senior citizens.

ng said when district chairmen don't appoint election workers, auditors must start looking. Many party leaders missed the Oct. 13 deadline, even in this year, which auditors say is going well.

If parties don't appoint workers as the law requires, they are hurting themselves. Parties have the appointing responsibility because clerks and judges may challenge a voter's right to cast a ballot. That is more important today than ever as voters who moved to town still want to cast ballots in their old, rural precincts. It's illegal, and parties would be well served to have people on election boards who can challenge people who would be expected to vote for the opposite party.

(Don Davis covers state and federal government and politics for the Tribune. Contact him at the Capitol press room, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Department A, Bismack 58505-0150; telephone, 223-8482; fax, 223-7157; or e-mail, DonDais@ndonline.com.)

erilance, it is certain ne-  
Jack off the

shor... inter-  
playing out  
t gives local  
changes in  
Iorton Coun-  
the position  
ounty Corn-  
auditor and  
on.

ecomplished  
by an elec-  
constitution.  
rather than  
ion's action,  
the question

he apparent  
itution is be-  
i Heitkamp,

nk, mischie-  
nologies and  
any changes  
done if they  
ems foolish,  
d other offi-  
whose func-  
hot be for

ing unconsti-  
s in shutting  
t reactivity.  
mination of  
in tool chest  
make them-  
voters that

Burleigh and  
ob, and they  
hat? Perhaps  
e to be sold.  
re time, they  
he voters are  
t in any case,

y at the polls  
ant to vote —  
ould be sensi-  
find it in the  
m their coun-  
st they've got

1 & generally  
nd... addition to  
shi, editor: Fred  
ations editor.)

5-31-98

# Burleigh needs election workers

■ Auditor seeks help in several precincts

JEFFREY G. OLSON  
*Bismarck Tribune*

Wanted: citizens to spend a day meeting and helping friends and neighbors exercise their franchise to pick civic leaders for schools, local, county, state and federal government.

"We simply don't have enough election workers," said Burleigh County Auditor Kevin Glatt. "We need five workers at each of 40 precincts, that's 200 election workers at the polling places and we need at least 10 more" to reach the minimum.

"I'm short of workers in precinct 43 at Highland Acres Elementary School, in precinct 53 at Robert Miller Elementary School, at precinct 50 at the Evangel Temple east

**'We need five workers at each of 40 precincts, that's 200 election workers at the polling places and we need at least 10 more.'**

Kevin Glatt, Burleigh auditor

of Highway 83 and in the city of Lincoln," Glatt said.

Election workers don't have to be precinct residents, "but we prefer the election workers be qualified electors in these precincts," Glatt said. "We're a few people short and we'd like to have some people on a backup list because in November we need twice as many clerks in the general election."

Glatt said it is increasingly difficult to find poll workers. "I don't know exactly but in most families today, both husband and wife work. The long hours discourage senior

citizens and others for that matter. The pay (\$80 to \$90 for the 14- to 16-hour day) isn't that great."

Precinct 53 at Robert Miller Elementary School is the precinct with the most voters, Glatt said. "We're going to work the election clerks in shifts. State law was changed last legislative session to allow that."

In the 1996 general election 2,179 votes were cast at precinct 53. "It was a long, tough day for those people," Glatt said.

"The election inspector and election judges can't leave the polling

place — they're there from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. — but the clerks can be worked in shifts," Glatt said.

In order to be an election worker, you have to be a qualified elector 18 years old.

During the past legislative session, Glatt thought he had a way to expand the pool of available election workers — get a law passed to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to work elections.

Introduced by Bismarck senators Marv Mutzenberger and Ed Kringstad, the bill died on the Senate floor.

"I thought, 'What a way to get young people involved.' I think if a young person worked on an election board one time you'd have a vote for life," Glatt said. "What better way to show them how this great system works."

If you are interested in working for the county on election day or in November, Glatt asks that you call the county auditor office at 222-6718. And call as soon as possible. The primary election is June 9.

Election Workers

JAN-19-99 TUE 05:49 PM SECRETARY OF STATE FAX NO. 7013282992 P. 02

COUNTY	ELECTION WORKERS SELECTED BY COUNTY AUDITOR	NO. OF ELECTION WORKERS WHO WORKED OUTSIDE PRECINCT
ADAMS		2
BARNES		3
BENSON		
BILLINGS		20
BOTTINEAU		
BOWMAN		20
BURKE		12
BURLEIGH		42
CASS		25
CAVALIER		
DICKEY	NONE	NONE
DIVIDE	ALL	NONE
DUNN	NONE	NONE
EDDY		3
EMMONS		
FOSTER	NONE	NONE
G VALLEY	ALL	NONE
G FORKS		
GRANT	NONE	NONE
GRIGGS		21
HETTINGER	NONE	NONE
KIDDER		20
LAMOURE		18
LOGAN		12
MCHENRY	NONE	NONE
MCINTOSH		2
MCKENZIE	ALL INSPECTORS	NONE
MCLEAN		10
MERCER		
MORTON		
MOUNTRAIL		1
NELSON	NONE	NONE
OLIVER	NONE	NONE
PEMBINA		10
PIERCE		
RAMSEY		
RANSOM		17
RENVILLE	NONE	NONE
RICHLAND	WORKED WITH PARTY	NONE
ROLETTE	NONE	NONE
SARGENT		12
SHERIDAN		8
SIOUX		45
SLOPE		8
STARK		56
STEELE		
STUTSMAN		10
TOWNER		5
TRAILL		
WALSH	NONE	NONE
WARD		5
WELLS		10
WILLIAMS		
TOTAL		793

\* blanks indicate [redacted] from county

This doesn't include those reporting they selected [redacted].



January 21, 1999

Testimony To Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

SB 2232      To amend and reenact  
subsection 16.1-05-02 of NDCC  
relating to Election Boards

My name is Charlotte McLaughlin. I immigrated to North Dakota 30 years ago. One of the attributes of this state that I both cherish and appreciate is that democracy and the democratic election process still work here. Both participation in governmental processes and voter turnout is much higher than in other parts of the country.

I have been an active member of the League of Women Voters - I was President of the Bismarck League for 8 years - and very involved in their activities encouraging informed participation in voting, visits to area High School government classes, candidate and issue forums and distribution of the LWV's "VOTERS GUIDE To Measures on the State Ballot".

I have also served on the election board of my precinct for many elections, as an Inspector. Over the years I have noticed that while voter turnout remains high, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find qualified and capable election workers, able to arrive at 6 AM, work expediently and remain at it until 11 PM or so. Our pool of potential workers is decreasing as the tasks becomes more complex and regulations more complicated.

This legislation is enabling and supportive of our state's effective voting process and will allow us to maintain it. This is permissive legislation that would allow, not mandate, up to two clerks per precinct to be students 16-18 years old. It has many benefits

- Enlarges the pool of potential election workers.
- Retains all the other requirements for election workers save for age.
- Provides a first hand view of the election process in action for students, which in turn encourages their participation in government at all levels.

In my very first opportunity to vote, too many years ago to tell you, I voted to lower the legal voting age from 21 to 18. While I am proud of being part of that change and do not support lowering the age any further, I do support and encourage much more involvement of our children and young in our democratic processes. For any community to maintain and perpetuate itself and its traditions, its necessary for its youth to be trained and included in those activities that make the community what it is. I urge your support of SB 2232.

Charlotte McLaughlin  
1140 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-258-1815



## SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

January 21, 1999

**TO:** Senator Lee and Members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

**FR:** Cory Fong, Elections Director

**RE: SB 2232 – Student Election Officials**

Finding election workers is a chronic problem for the political parties and therefore our state's county auditors. During the weeks, and in some cases days, before the election, the Secretary of State's office fields numerous calls from worried county auditors who tell us that they are still short on election workers. This still occurred in 1998 even after the law change went into effect that allowed county auditors to look outside of the precinct and legislative district to find interested workers.

To study this problem further, the Secretary of State's office after the 1998 June Primary Election informally surveyed the county auditors to determine how many election workers were appointed by the county auditor versus the political parties. The results of our informal survey showed that out of approximately 2,800 election officials that are supposed to be appointed by the political parties, over 400 were selected by the county auditors. This is more than 14%.

Senate Bill 2232 tries to ease this problem by giving district political parties and county election officials another pool of potential election workers to choose from in our state's student population. The state of Hawaii was the first to experiment with student election workers in 1990 and has had great success since. As a matter of fact, today, out of Hawaii's approximate 4,650 election workers, about 800, or 17% are student election workers. According to election officials in Hawaii, most new election workers come from high schools or colleges.

Other states have also had success with student election workers including California, Connecticut, Oregon, and our neighbors to the east in Minnesota. Minnesota reports that their experience with student election workers has been "very positive" and they expect more student workers will be used next year. It is also worth noting that the Federal Election Commission, which is the federal agency responsible for providing guidance in election administration, has included in its publication *Innovations in Elections Administration on Recruiting Poll Workers* a section devoted to the benefits of student poll workers. In their publication, the Federal Election Commission states, "Working with the young may not be a panacea for the poll worker starved election officials. But young people may offer the best opportunity for election officials to bring a new demographic group into poll work."

While the immediate and most notable benefit of student election workers is that they provide another pool for political parties and county auditors to choose from, there are other meaningful benefits too. As most of us will agree, getting young people involved and interested in the election process is very important. Allowing 16 and 17 year-old high school students to directly participate in the process is one significant way towards achieving this. In addition,

SB 2232 – Testimony of Secretary of State  
January 21, 1999  
Page two

given the fact that most of our current election workers are retired citizens, allowing student election officials to serve creates a worthwhile blending of very different age groups. What a wonderful opportunity for young and old to share.

For these reasons, I encourage your support for Senate Bill 2232.

Testimony to the  
**House Political Subdivisions**  
prepared March 4, 1999  
by Kevin J. Glatt  
Burleigh County Auditor

**Concerning SB2232**

Chairman Froseth and members of the committee, I appear before you to express my support of engrossed SB2232.

SB2232 is permissive legislation that will accomplish two things:

- 1) Help alleviate the problem that District Party Chairpersons and county auditors have finding election workers, and
- 2) Give our young people hands-on education and experience on how our democracy and political system work.

Finding election day poll workers is a predicament that plagues almost every jurisdiction and it grows worse every year. The job of poll worker, with its long hours and token pay, has never had enormous appeal. Those that it has appealed to in the past (homemakers, retirees, partisans) are less available. Today, the pool of poll workers is composed of largely older Americans. The loyalty and experience of this group have been a hallmark of our election process. However, as poll work is becoming more demanding, and as laws change and as technology advances, polling place operations are not as simple as they once were. This added complexity and added paperwork creates an environment that older Americans find less comfortable than do the young. Older Americans may find the extremely long days more demanding than they can endure. Fourteen to sixteen hour days are difficult for anyone. So even the core of our current poll workers, older Americans, is in jeopardy.

The hands on education and training that the student election worker could gain is immeasurable. What better way can we find to get young people involved and interested in our democracy and political system? Please consider the knowledge and experience students could receive from working hands-on within the political system with knowledgeable and experienced co-workers. It is my opinion that the 1 day of school missed in November will be a great learning experience for any student who wants to

work on election day. I understand that working with students will not be a cure-all, but may offer a great opportunity for election officials and students alike.

The states of Minnesota, Hawaii, Oregon, and Connecticut have had good success with this idea and are building the young into a key component of their election day work force. This bill draft is a compilation of statutes from Hawaii, Connecticut, and Indiana. This bill is permissive legislation allowing election officials to appoint no more than 2 students to serve as election clerks in each precinct.

*This bill has been reviewed as engrossed and is acceptable to the Dept. of Public Instruction.*

Chairman Froseth, members of the committee I urge your favorable support for SB2232.



## SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

March 4, 1999

**TO:** Representative Froseth and Members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee  
**FR:** Cory Fong, Elections Director  
**RE: SB 2232 – Student Election Officials**

Finding election workers is a chronic problem for the political parties and therefore our state's county auditors. During the weeks, and in some cases days, before the election, the Secretary of State's office fields numerous calls from worried county auditors who tell us that they are still short on election workers. This still occurred in 1998 even after the law change went into effect that allowed county auditors to look outside of the precinct and legislative district to find interested workers.

To study this problem further, the Secretary of State's office after the 1998 June Primary Election informally surveyed the county auditors to determine how many election workers were appointed by the county auditor versus the political parties. The results of our informal survey showed that out of approximately 2,800 election officials that are supposed to be appointed by the political parties, over 400 were selected by the county auditors. This is more than 14%.

Senate Bill 2232 tries to ease this problem by giving district political parties and county election officials another pool of potential election workers to choose from in our state's student population. The state of Hawaii was the first to experiment with student election workers in 1990 and has had great success since. As a matter of fact, today, out of Hawaii's approximate 4,650 election workers, about 800, or 17% are student election workers. According to election officials in Hawaii, most new election workers come from high schools or colleges.

Other states have also had success with student election workers including California, Connecticut, Oregon, and our neighbors to the east in Minnesota. Minnesota reports that their experience with student election workers has been "very positive" and they expect more student workers will be used next year. It is also worth noting that the Federal Election Commission, which is the federal agency responsible for providing guidance in election administration, has included in its publication *Innovations in Elections Administration on Recruiting Poll Workers* a section devoted to the benefits of student poll workers. In their publication, the Federal Election Commission states, "Working with the young may not be a panacea for the poll worker starved election officials. But young people may offer the best opportunity for election officials to bring a new demographic group into poll work."

While the immediate and most notable benefit of student election workers is that they provide another pool for political parties and county auditors to choose from, there are other meaningful benefits too. As most of us will agree, getting young people involved and interested in the election process is very important. Allowing 16 and 17 year-old high school students to directly participate in the process is one significant way towards achieving this. In addition,

**SB 2232 – Testimony of Secretary of State**  
**March 4, 1999**  
**Page two**

given the fact that most of our current election workers are retired citizens, allowing student election officials to serve creates a worthwhile blending of very different age groups. What a wonderful opportunity this offers for young and old to share.

For these reasons, I encourage your support for Senate Bill 2232.