

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1359

2001 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION

HB 1359

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1359

House Finance and Taxation Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 29, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	2,465
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Janice Stein</i>			

Minutes:

**REP. AL CARLSON, CHAIRMAN,** Opened the hearing.

**REP. ANDY MARAGOS, DIST. 3, MINOT** Introduced the bill as the prime sponsor. He stated he introduced the bill at the request of one of his park commissioners. It is a relatively simple bill, which changes one little item in the bill. The person who is here to testify will give you a compelling reason why we should pass this legislation.

**REP. CARLSON** Stated we have heard another bill HB 1031, which had to do with consolidation of property tax levy of park districts and to provide an effective date, it is rather an extensive bill, this appears to be on the same line of the other bill, are you familiar with that and the effects of that?

**REP. MARAGOS** I was made aware of that bill this morning. I don't know if I have the answer to your question, I think this committee can decide what to do with that bill. We are looking at one specific mill levy authority that they have. I prefer to stick with those specifics, if

others are in asking for a little more flexibility on how to govern their political subdivisions, I am sure they will make the compelling testimony, and we can decide whether it is a good idea or not.

He stated that if that bill accomplishes what we want to accomplish, we don't need this bill.

REP. CARLSON Related to page 7 of the other bill, stating the language Rep. Maragos is asking for was struck from the previous bill.

REP. MARAGOS Stated he would then like to keep this bill alive. He asked that this bill would be held until action is taken on the other bill.

MIKE NIELSON, PARK BOARD COMMISSIONER, MINOT PARK BOARD, Testified in support of the bill. He stated the reason for this particular bill, is that they are concerned about their employee's benefits, one being the health care. Over the last ten years, they have used one mill and that covered approximately half of what they now spend on health care benefits. Because of that dedication, you know you get to working on things, you take care of all of your expenses in the park district, and unfortunately, it ends up that the last things you sometimes do, is take care of benefits for our employees, which they deserve. In this case, I have watched the benefits of the health care packages increase very much in cost, benefits to the employees coming down because the park district has not been able to put as much money as we would like to, into that fund. We are looking at a dedicated levy of two mills. That would mean we would have two mills to work for the employee's benefits concerning health care. Sometimes, when we consolidate all of these mills, we still have the same problem. We have a number of park board members that look at, for example, two mills for forestry, without a vote of the people. Some of them are dedicated to the fact, that that is all they are going to spend. The same way with the five mills that are dedicated to improvement. They try to use the least of those that they can. We are

probably now at a maximum for the general fund, but we have liked the dedicated mills, so that we have an opportunity to know where the money is going and what we are spending. That is why we are asking for this one mill increase.

**REP. HERBEL** Didn't we pass a bill out here last week where we allowed a cap of four mills and we allowed them to move it to the OASIS, to cover this type of thing?

**REP. CARLSON** Stated, parks are a separate district so they are not included.

He asked whether he was familiar with the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association that brought forward the other bill of the consolidating of the various bill levies that you have?

**MIKE NIELSON** Stated he was familiar with that.

**REP. CARLSON** Stated, by doing that, you would get to the point where you would have less categories, basically five, and you would have limits within those, of which this would fall within one of those. Obviously, your park district was not involved in the drafting of the amendments on the other one?

**MIKE NIELSON** No we weren't, as I mentioned, a couple of our park board commissioners are in favor of the dedicated taxes.

**REP. CARLSON** If we were to adopt that, it would change it for everyone in the state.

It would eliminate the bill, specifically, for health care.

**MIKE NIELSON** That is one of the problems I have with that bill. When you have dedicated mills for health insurance, it means that you can then, say, we have two mills in helping our employee's benefits. If it is part of the overall general mills, it then seems to get lost.

**REP. SCHMIDT** Do you know what Ward County generates with one mill?

**MIKE NIELSON** Stated it was approximately sixty thousand dollars.

**REP. CARLSON** That would just be the city of Minot?

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House Finance and Taxation Committee  
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MIKE NIELSON Yes.

REP. CARLSON Asked that Rep. Kelsh and Rep. Herbel work on HB 1031 and HB 1359 to see if the two bills work together.

With no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

COMMITTEE ACTION 1-31-01, TAPE #3, SIDE A, METER #5900

REP. WINRICH Made a motion for a do not pass.

REP. CLARK Second the motion. MOTION CARRIED

14 YES 0 NO 1 ABSENT

REP. WIKENHEISER Was given the floor assignment.

Date: 1-31-01  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1359

House FINANCE & TAXATION Committee

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

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

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Winrich Seconded By Rep. Clark

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CARLSON, AL, CHAIRMAN	✓		NICHOLAS, EUGENE	✓	
DROVDAL, DAVID, V-CHAIR	✓		RENNER, DENNIS	✓	
BRANDENBURG, MICHAEL	A		RENNERFELDT, EARL	✓	
CLARK, BYRON	✓		SCHMIDT, ARLO	✓	
GROSZ, MICHAEL	✓		WIKENHEISER, RAY	✓	
HERBEL, GIL	✓		WINRICH, LONNY	✓	
KELSH, SCOT	✓				
KROEBER, JOE	✓				
LLOYD, EDWARD	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Wikenheiser

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
February 1, 2001 8:41 a.m.

Module No: HR-18-2062  
Carrier: Wikenheiser  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

HB 1359: Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Carlson, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1359 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.