

**2017 SENATE TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 2167**

# 2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

SB 2167  
1/19/2017  
27105

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Mary Munder*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the adoption of central time zone; and relating to daylight savings time.

## Minutes:

Attachment #1-2

Chairman Laffen: Called the hearing of SB 2167 to order. Committee, I did hand out a testimony from George Nodland (Attachment #1) in favor of the bill. I also want you to know we will be working on SCR 4005 today at 10:30. Welcome back to the room of the "big dogs" Senator Oehlke.

**Senator Oehlke:** Thank you. It is good to be back in the room of the "big dogs". I am Senator Oehlke from Devils Lake, the only community in the state of ND with permanent flood protection. I am here to support SB 2167. You have probably heard that it is a simple bill but there are several things that are not easy. The bill does two things; 1. If implemented as it stands it would eliminate daylight savings time and leave it at that time zone; 2. The other thing that it would do is to create one-time zone in the state of ND. I introduced this bill as it came from some people that have health issues and did not like having their sleep patterns disrupted twice a year and hard for them to get back on track. Also talking to some businesses with a business in both time zones and they are having a hard time on opening and closing and doing a lunch time. At the end of the day one closes early and the other is open another hour yet and cannot get help from the one that has closed till the next morning. I think whichever time zone ND is put on makes no difference to me as long as the state is all on one. If you look at history, mountain time used to start at the river and it has slowly been moving west.

**Chairman Laffen:** Any questions?

**Senator Rust:** Senator Oehlke, welcome back. Under my understanding, Dickinson was asked about changing time zones and it was voted down. Do you think the Legislature should impose a time change on them?

**Senator Oehlke:** I would wonder if the vote had the option that it could be mountain time how they would have voted. The western half would be happy with that time zone.

**Senator Rust:** I think the ones in the west would like that but the ones in the east wouldn't think it was so good. It did not work to have Mandan/Bismarck on different time zones and I am wondering if we will run into that same type of problem again in the west or the east.

**Senator Oehlke:** I have gotten many e-mails from the people of MN saying they ought to do the same thing and get rid of daylight savings time as well.

**Senator Vice Chairman Casper:** Why did the time zone get moved in the first place? Is there any history on that?

**Senator Oelke:** I really have no history on it but I would suspect it was because of convenience to a certain extent. For commerce it is not only in the Midwest. I just think it is a good idea to be on one-time zone so we don't have to disrupt our lives twice a year and there is an extremely large amount of people feeling the same way.

**Chairman Laffen:** I did a little homework on this one and the true line of geography wise for mountain and central would be somewhere through Casselton, roughly, and the railroads were the reason it kept getting moved because of their schedules.

**Senator Oelke:** We all know the railroads can be kind of pushy.

**Senator Clemens:** I also favor it leaving it the way it is. I think there will be mass confusion on the eastern part of the state with workers coming from MN to work in Fargo. The same goes for Breckenridge and Grand Forks. I understand some people will not like it and it will be a greater mess on the eastern side of the state.

**Senator Oelke:** Well, we are North Dakotans so we don't always do things the way MN does.

**Senator Nelson:** In 1959 the Feds put us on daylight savings time and the county we were in said no we are not moving to daylight savings and they stayed on mountain time. It was a mess because the county and the locals were not on the same time as the Feds.

**Senator Oehlke:** Well now you can see how much fun you will have on this committee. I know you can handle this.

**Chairman Laffen:** We all know the answer to that. Any questions? None. Any other testimony in favor of SB 2167?

**Dennis Murphy:** I am a resident of Bismarck the last 4 years. I used to work for the Department of Transportation and am retired now. I did a lot of traveling and back in my day mountain time was a real pain. I just thought it would be better if ND had one-time zone. I have written several letters to the Bismarck Tribune whenever this subject popped up. It might be a good idea to go to daylight savings time as we are already on it about eight months out of the year now.

**Chairman Laffen:** Any questions? None. Further testimony in favor.

**Dave Ludwig:** I am a citizen of Bismarck. When I saw the bill I contacted Senator Oelke and said good for you. This is one of the stupidest things we do in our country is the time zones. It takes me about a month or two to adjust to each time change. Talk to Mothers and they say time change is hard on their children changing from one to the other. It is also bad on our health. (See Attachment #2). There are about thirteen bills in ten states and most of them propose just that for the same reasons. Changes are hard on people and livestock and on health problems. I wouldn't worry about East Grand Forks and Moorhead as I am sure we will see a change there sometime in the future, too. I would support daylight savings time all year round. Thank you.

**Senator Rust:** It also takes me two weeks to adjust also. When I was administrator of the school I used to like it when the buses had more light to travel in. Do you see a safety issue here with that?

**Dave Ludwig:** When I was young we did get on the bus in the dark in the winter. As far as the safety issue the accidents go up with every time change. Suggestions are that we lose 302-370 lives every year because of the time change. Increase in accidents are 10-20% in just those times. It is always safer in the light later in the day.

**Chairman Laffen:** Questions? None. Any testimony in favor of SB 2167.

**Cal Klewin:** I live in a mountain time zone in Bowman, ND and I work with many individuals from Texas all the way to Williston and it is an issue doing business. It is hard for people to understand why ND has those two different time zones. I am basically in support of one-time zone for the state.

**Chairman Laffen:** What is the difference in time if you go across the SD border?

**Cal Klewin:** They are mountain time.

**Chairman Laffen:** Where is the line for the zones?

**Cal Klewin:** Somewhere by Pierre, along the river.

**Chairman Laffen:** Questions? None. Testimony in favor. None. Testimony in opposition to SB2167.

**Robynn Berger:** I am a Bismarck citizen. I have always had an issue with the time zone. As a Mom I don't like the months that we switch the time as the kids just get used to the one time of getting up and going to bed and then we switch and they have to get used to that. If we are going to have a change why not make it from May through August and that's it. I think making the state one-time zone is a good thing but I would be in favor of mountain time zone then. I think the light is good for people to function well.

**Chairman Laffen:** Any questions? None. Opposition to SB 2167. Any neutral testimony to the bill.

**Jeff Simon, Western Dakota Energy Association:** Our company has not taken a stand on this but I would like to do so personally. I know Williston is in central time zone and Dickinson is in mountain time zone. Now I also know Watford City is in central and Killdeer is in mountain time zone which is also an east/west shift. I do recall a time when we eliminated daylight savings time in the 70's and walking to school in the dark at about 8:30 in the morning. Just those few comments.

**Chairman Laffen:** Questions? None. I spoke with Governor Schaffer a few days ago and he told me the story when he was in office and he had received a letter from a woman about this time change. She said her grass just wouldn't grow anymore because of the change. Any testimony of the SB 2167. With that we will close the hearing on SB 2167.

# 2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

SB 2167  
2/2/2017  
27799

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Mary Munder*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the adoption of central time zone; and relating to daylight savings time.

## Minutes:

Attachment #1

**Chairman Laffen:** Reopened SB 2167.

**Senator Rust:** We need a little discussion on this one. I am really ready to kill this bill. I don't want to make it better. Is it possible for the locals to change? It got voted on in Dickinson and got overwhelmingly defeated. I just don't like the Legislature saying that we have a good idea for you, so you change. I am in favor of killing the whole thing without amending it.

**Senator Nelson:** Moved for a Do Not Pass on SB 2167.

**Senator Campbell:** Seconded.

**Chairman Laffen:** I did have some amendments but we may hear some more on this on the floor as it is an easy bill to divide if someone wanted to do that.

**Senator Campbell:** Have you heard of someone wanting to do that?

**Chairman Laffen:** No, I was just thinking it would be easy for them to do if someone wants to push for Central time for the east.

**Senator Campbell:** I heard from so many living in that west corner that they were fine, minding their own business, and wanted to know why the people in the east have a problem with it. They didn't have a problem.

General Discussion about where people lived and on what time the people lived and liked.

**Chairman Laffen:** Questions? None.

**Roll Call Taken. Yeas-6, Nays-0, Absent-0**

**Motion Passed.**

**Carried by Senator Campbell**

Additional testimony attached, turned in later.

Andrew Alexis Varvel, Bismarck, ND

Date: 2.2.17  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Enter Bill/Resolution No." 2167

Senate Transportation Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

- Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Campbell

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Lonnie J. Laffen	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	
Senator Tom Campbell	✓				
Senator David Rust	✓				
Senator David Clemens	✓				
Vice Chairman Jonathan Casper	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Campbell

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2167: Transportation Committee (Sen. Laffen, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2167 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2017 TESTIMONY

SB 2167

**Laffen, Lonnie J.**

Attachment # 7  
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**From:** George Nodland <gnodland@ndsupernet.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** Laffen, Lonnie J.  
**Subject:** SB2167

**CAUTION:** This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe.

Senator Laffen,

I would like to give a short testimony on SB2167 if permissible with this e-mail message:

I am totally in favor of SB2167 to change the whole state of ND to central time and eliminate daylight savings time. This has been an issue in SW North Dakota for many years as there has been attempts to change Stark County to central time from mountain time with no avail. The local businesses have always had issues working with other businesses in the central time zone in the state. Recently, the oil companies have shown displeasure in the two different time zones between SW North Dakota and cities such as Watford City, New Town, and Williston. This needs to be changed. I also totally agree with eliminating daylight savings time! It is extreme displeasure and discomfort to get up one hour early in the middle of March each year! It definitely upsets our sleep pattern and doesn't have any material gain for anyone. Please consider passing this bill and sending to the Senate assembly for approval. Thank you!

Your former District 36 Senator and Vice Chairman of Transportation Committee

George Nodland  
701-290-9232  
3296 110V Ave SW  
Dickinson, ND 58601-8567

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Attachment # 2  
pg 1

# Daylight Saving Time Could Kill You

39 JAN 5, 2015 3:29 PM EST

By [Mark Whitehouse](#)

An economist has a warning for the more than 1.5 billion people living in countries that observe daylight saving time: Springing forward may be bad for your health.

The wisdom of moving clocks an hour forward during summer months has long been a subject of debate. Proponents argue that extending daylight into the evening saves electricity, encourages people to exercise after work and reduces crime and traffic fatalities. Opponents say the costs of disrupting people's schedules and sleep may outweigh the benefits.

The available research offers fodder for both sides. Studies have supported the arguments on [crime](#), [exercise](#) and [fatalities](#), but cast [doubt](#) on the [energy](#) savings and suggested that the disruptions might [increase](#) the risk of heart attacks.

Enter Austin Smith, a PhD candidate at the University of Colorado-Boulder. In a [paper](#) presented today at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association, he looks at national data on all fatal car crashes from 2002 to 2011 to see what happens immediately after people reset their clocks in the spring and fall. He does so by comparing the number of crashes that occur just before and after the time changes in each year, and also by comparing crashes on dates that -- thanks to a 2007 policy change -- fell within daylight saving time in some years and not in others.

The result: Fatal crashes increased by about 6 percent over the 6 days immediately following the spring transition, but didn't change after the fall transition. Because people "lose" an hour only in spring, and because the accidents weren't concentrated at times when changes in daylight might have been a factor, Smith attributes the spike in crashes to inadequate sleep. He estimates that the 6 percent increase amounted to more than 300 added deaths over the 10-year period he studied.

The research doesn't demonstrate that daylight savings time is, on net, a killer. As Smith writes, the "result should be viewed as one piece of the puzzle, to be examined in

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conjunction with research on other impacts." That said, it might make sense to take care on the road when the time comes to move clocks forward.

Attachment # 2

Pg 2

*This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Bloomberg View's editorial board or Bloomberg LP, its owners and investors.*

To contact the author on this story:

Mark Whitehouse at [mwhitehouse1@bloomberg.net](mailto:mwhitehouse1@bloomberg.net)

To contact the editor on this story:

Max Berley at [mberley@bloomberg.net](mailto:mberley@bloomberg.net)

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Written Testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee  
Senate Bill 2167  
Andrew Alexis Varvel  
February 1, 2017

SB 2167 2/2/17  
Attachment # 1 pgs

I like this bill. I like the idea that our entire state would be within the same time zone. I especially like the idea that we would no longer change our clocks according to Daylight Savings Time.

I also recognize that Mountain Time is an important part of the identity of people who live in western North Dakota. They don't want to give up Mountain Time, and I don't blame them. Mountain Time isn't just about the clock – it's about being part of the West, being proud of cowboy history, and perhaps rooting for the Denver Broncos rather than the Minnesota Vikings or the Green Bay Packers. For the same reason, one shouldn't expect people from the Red River Valley to give up Central Time either.

There is a way for North Dakota to stop changing our clocks twice a year while embracing both North Dakota's western identity and North Dakota's midwestern identity. Our entire state ought to use Central Standard Time during the winter and Mountain Daylight Time during the summer.

Please amend this bill to ensure that North Dakota remains technically compliant with Daylight Savings Time, shifting our time zone twice per year, and not changing our clocks at all.

Thank you.

Andrew Alexis Varvel  
2630 Commons Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58503