

**2023 HOUSE AGRICULTURE**

**HB 1206**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1206  
1/19/2023

Relating to the closure of a section line open for public travel.

Chairman Thomas called to order 8:30 AM

Members present: Chairman Thomas, Representatives Beltz, Christy, Fisher, Headland, Henderson, Kiefert, Olson, Prichard, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, VanWinkle. Member Absent: Finley-DeVille.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Bridge liability
- Transfer of owner
- County responsibility
- Public hearing
- Section line
- New bridge program

## **In favor:**

Representative Dick Anderson, District 6, Primary bill sponsor.

## **Neutral:**

Jon Ketterling, Director of the Bridge Division for the ND Department of Transportation ("NDDOT"), #14399

Brian Fuchs, NDDOT, (no written testimony)

Chairman Thomas adjourn the hearing 8:48 AM

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

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**Agriculture Committee**  
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Relating to the closure of a section line open for public travel.

Chairman Thomas called to order 9:20 AM

Members present: Chairman Thomas, Representatives Beltz, Christy, Fisher, Headland, Henderson, Kiefert, Olson, Prichard, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, VanWinkle. Member Absent: Finley-DeVille.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Representative VanWinkle moved Do Not Pass.  
Representative Schreiber-Beck seconded.

Roll call vote:

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Paul J. Thomas	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	AB
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	N
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	N
Representative Brandon Prichard	N
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	N
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y

Motion passed 8-4-1

Representative Schreiber-Beck will carry the bill.

Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting 9:27 AM

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1206: Agriculture Committee (Rep. Thomas, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1206 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 1206**

**House Bill No. 1206****House Agriculture Committee**

Room 327C | January 19, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

Jon Ketterling, Bridge Division

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Jon Ketterling, Director of the Bridge Division for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to provide information related to HB 1206.

House Bill 1206 provides language allowing a county to transfer ownership of a bridge to adjacent landowners on a closed section line. It goes on to state that this action will relieve the county of future requirements to inspect, sign and repair the bridge as stated in section 24-08-03.

The Code of Federal Regulations 23 U.S.C 151 mandates that the state is responsible for the inspection of all public highway bridges >20' within the state, except for those that are federally or tribally owned.

The Code of Federal Regulations 23 CFR 650.303 states that the National Bridge Inspection Standards apply to private bridges that are connected to a public road on both ends of the bridge.

We would recommend that signage requirements be added to this bill on installing and maintaining the signs as long as the bridge is not removed or closed permanently to prevent usage of the bridge by the public.

This concludes my testimony. Thank You.