

**2023 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1432**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1432  
2/2/2023

Relating to the repeal of provisions of the North Dakota Century Code or Constitution of North Dakota.
--

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 3:47 PM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, Mary Schneider. All present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Legislative limitations
- Amendment

Rep. Christensen introduced HB 1432 with supportive testimony and orally suggested an amendment (#18885).

### **Additional Written Testimony:**

Erika White, Election Manager in the Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer's Office, opposition testimony (#18628).

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 3:57 PM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1432  
2/9/2023

Relating to the repeal of provisions of the North Dakota Century Code or Constitution of North Dakota.
--

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, Mary Schneider. All present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Legislative limitations
- Amendment
- Committee work

Representative Christensen proposed amendment (23.0946.01002)

Representative Bahl Seconded motion

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion carries: 13-0-0

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk By: Leah Kuball*

2-9-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1432

Page 1, line 2, remove "or Constitution of"

Page 1, line 3, remove "North Dakota"

Page 1, line 7, remove "or constitution"

Page 1, line 8, replace ", initiated, or referred measure" with "bill"

Page 1, line 9, remove "or Constitution of North Dakota"

Renumber accordingly

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1432  
2/9/2023

Relating to the repeal of provisions of the North Dakota Century Code or Constitution of North Dakota.
--

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, and Mary Schneider present. Reps. Scott Louser, Steve Vetter, Vicky Steiner, not present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Legislative limitations
- Amendment
- Committee action

Representative Johnson moved a DO NOT PASS as amended on HB 1432.

Seconded by Representative Bahl.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	AB
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	AB
Representative Steve Vetter	AB

Motion carries: 9-1-3.

Bill carrier: Representative Johnson.

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 3:11 PM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk By: Leah Kuball*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1432: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)**  
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends  
**DO NOT PASS** (9 YEAS, 1 NAY, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1432 was  
placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, remove "or Constitution of"

Page 1, line 3, remove "North Dakota"

Page 1, line 7, remove "or constitution"

Page 1, line 8, replace ". initiated, or referred measure" with "bill"

Page 1, line 9, remove "or Constitution of North Dakota"

Renumber accordingly

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 1432**

Written Testimony for the  
**House Government and Veterans Affairs**  
February 2, 2023  
Erika White, Burleigh County Election Manager



**RE: OPPOSITION for HB 1432**

Greetings, Chairman Schauer, and members of the Committee. My name is Erika White and I am the Election Manager in the Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer's office. I'm submitting testimony in opposition of HB 1432, as written.

I understand the basis for this bill and agree that voters should be educated on the material presented on the ballot. The concern with this bill is that it will lead to multiple ballot pages to incorporate the text of the provision being repealed.

Space on a ballot is limited due to size restrictions the tabulating equipment can handle. The current tabulation equipment can scan ballots 8.5 inches wide and up to 19 inches in length. While this may seem like a sizeable area, there are restrictions for the amount of text that can be placed in a singular column. In addition, space is further restricted due to header and footer information, required by law, as well as border space for the tabulators to correctly scan each ballot.

If the information can not fit on a one-page, double-sided ballot, the only option is to have a two-page, double-sided ballot. Having a two-page ballot opens up a myriad of issues. Voters will forget or even choose to only send back a singular page in their absentee envelope. Scanning one page versus two pages will create discrepancies with the number of absentee voters checked-in to our Central Voter File and the quantity of ballots scanned on the tabulator. Having these discrepancies in the count will lead to increased voter distrust and election integrity concerns.

Having a two-page ballot will also lead to early vote and Election Day problems. The dedicated election workers who are at the polls will have more to manage with a two-page ballot. This could lead to increased wait times at the polls as well as balancing issues when the polls close, all of which will lead to a delay in reporting the election results.

Voter education is key when relating to items on the ballot. Auditors across the state are currently supplying polling locations with the entire text of ballot measures. The entirety of the text is posted throughout the polling location and additional copies are readily available for any voter who requests a copy. I personally have never witnessed a voter examining the entirety of the text or requesting the text of measures. I would argue that a majority of voters have their decision regarding ballot measures decided before coming to the polling location.

I do believe that auditors would be willing to supply each voting booth with the full text of measures for voters to read. Printing the entirety of a measure on the ballot will be overwhelming and burdensome for the voter. We agree that transparency and communication



is key when executing successful elections. However, there are great alternatives that can maintain the current one-page, two-sided ballot. This will allow us to confidently uphold the integrity of North Dakota Elections.

Thank you for your time and I urge a DO NOT PASS on HB 1432.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## **Representative Cole Christensen**

District 24  
P.O. Box 176  
Rogers, ND 58479-0176  
C: 701-659-1776  
[cochristensen@nd.gov](mailto:cochristensen@nd.gov)

## **COMMITTEES:**

Judiciary  
Transportation

2/2/2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Cole Christensen, Representative from District 24.

I am here to testify in support of HB 1432. This is a simple bill that provides transparency to the repeal process, and to include that language to be included in the bill. I had constituents that requested something to be done for these bills that include numerous chapters that repeal sections of century code. As legislators we have laws with a quick link to the repeals page, but our constituents do not.

Mr. chairman and members of the committee, I would urge a do pass recommendation and I would stand for questions.