

Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine

HOUSE BILL NO. 1140
(Natural Resources Committee)
(At the request of the State Engineer)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 61-35-04, 61-35-07, 61-35-08, and subsection 1 of section 61-35-25 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to payment of publication costs to create a water district, election of a board of a water district, and notice of dissolution or merger of a rural water corporation or cooperative.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 61-35-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

61-35-04. Hearing after filing. When a petition for the organization of a district is filed with the state engineer, the state engineer shall fix a time for a hearing on the petition not less than fifteen nor more than forty-five days after the filing of the petition. The state engineer shall prepare a notice as required by section 61-35-05. At least seven days before the date fixed for the hearing on the petition, the notice must be:

1. ~~Published~~ published in the official county newspapers in the counties included within the district.
2. ~~Transmitted with a copy of the original petition to the state engineer~~ The applicant shall pay all costs of the publication notice.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 61-35-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

61-35-07. Findings - Order. After the hearing, the state engineer may strike off any part of the territory that testimony shows will not be benefited by the creation of the district. If the state engineer does not find that the district is reasonably necessary, the state engineer shall dismiss the petition. If the state engineer finds that required notice of the hearing has been given and that the proposed district is reasonably necessary for the public health, convenience, and comfort of the residents, the state engineer shall make an order establishing the district as a political subdivision, designating its boundary, and identifying it by name or number. The order shall be published in the same newspaper or newspapers that published the notice of hearing. The applicant shall pay all costs of the publication of the order. The state engineer shall prepare and preserve a complete record of the hearing on the petition and the state engineer's findings and action.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 61-35-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

61-35-08. Meeting of members - Election of board. As a part of the order organizing the district, the state engineer shall fix the time and place at which the members shall meet to select from their number a board of directors. Selection of the initial board may not be later than thirty days after the ~~hearing order is issued.~~ The number of directors on the board, not to exceed nine, must be determined by a majority vote of those members present. Any member elected a director who fails to become a participating member, within thirty days after entry in the minutes of the board of a declaration of availability of benefit units for subscription, forfeits the office of director.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 61-35-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. After final approval of the petition by the state engineer, the secretary of the corporation or cooperative shall file a notice with the ~~corporation or cooperative~~ secretary of state or attorney general, if applicable, in accordance with title 10.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1140.

House Vote: Yeas 96 Nays 0 Absent 2

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 2

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State